

Senior Chronicles

Last Name	First Name	Year	Senior Chronicles
Overhults	Kenneth W.	2025	<p>Kenneth W. Overhults was born 03/17/41 in Equality, Kentucky. He earned his BS degree in May 1964 at the University of Kentucky. He married Faye Carolyn on February 16, 2013, and they had one son and one daughter. He retired as a Resource Conservationist at the Burlington, KY Field Office in 1994. He received a certificate of merit in 1992. He was deemed a Master Builder of Men by the FarmHouse International Fraternity in 2004. And he was named to the Hall of Fame of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association in 2010.</p> <p>His career positions with SCS/NRCS were many:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun-Sep 1960, Student Trainee (Agr Engr), Owensboro Area Office, Owensboro, KY • Jun-Sep 1961, Student Trainee (Agr Engr), Mayfield Area Office, Mayfield, KY • Jun-Aug 1962, Student Trainee (Soil Science), Owensboro Area Office, Owensboro, KY • Jun-Aug 1963, Student Trainee (Soil Conservation), Stanton Field Office, Stanton, KY • Jun 64-Sep1966, Soil Conservationist, Campton Sub-Field Office, Campton, KY • Sep 66-Feb1967, Soil Conservationist, Dixon Field Office, Dixon, KY • Feb 67-Nov1975, SC (District Conservationist), Manchester Field Office, Manchester, KY • Nov 75-Mar 1985, SC (District Conservationist), Leitchfield Field Office, Leitchfield, KY • Mar 85-Jun 1986, Resource Conservationist, Owensboro Area Office, Owensboro, KY • Jun 86-Jan 1987, Resource Conservationist, Hartford Field Office, Hartford, KY • Jan 87-May 1987, Resource Conservationist, Leitchfield Field Office, Leitchfield, KY • May 87-May 1988, Resource Conservationist, Hodgenville Feld Office, Hodgenville, KY • May 88-May1991, Resource Conservationist, KY State Office, Lexington, KY • May 91-Apr 1994, Resource Conservationist, Burlington Field Office, Burlington, KY <p>Kenneth's contact information is 460 Spencer Park, Lexington, KY 40515; tel. 859-272-6413; email koverhults@juno.com.</p>
McQuilkin	James E.	2025	<p>James E. McQuilkin was born 12/25/40 in Henry, Illinois. He earned his BS in Agriculture in June 1964 at the Western Illinois University. He married Bonita Proctor on June 9, 1973, and they had one son, three daughters, and two grandchildren. He retired from the Henry, IL Field Office 12/2005, where he was a soil conservation technician. He did EWP work in the state of Oregon, overseeing streambank restoration projects.</p> <p>After retiring, he worked for the Maurer Stutz Engineering company in Henry, IL. His hobbies include woodworking and operating a sawmill.</p>

			James' contact information is 1093 Illinois Rte. 89, Mongolia, IL 61336; tel. (815) 869 3100; email soiltech1@yahoo.com .
Benham	Kenneth E.	2024	<p>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.</p> <p>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."</p> <p>Kenneth's contact information is 5023 W. 20th St., Joplin, MO 64804. 417-626-8695, kbenn@att.net.</p>
Berndt	Loren William	2024	<p>Loren William Berndt was born 9/30/1937 in Bridgman, Michigan.</p> <p>Loren's contact information is 3868 Linke Rd., Bridgman, MI 49106, rustyauger2@aol.com; 269-326-0924.</p> <p>Loren graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science in 1959. He married Erika on 10/27/2018 after losing his first wife Gertrude in 2016 after 43 years of marriage. He has three stepdaughters, six step-grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Before going to work for the SCS, he worked on the family farm.</p> <p>He retired on 12/31/1993 as the Assistant State Soil Scientist in East Lansing, MI. His duty assignments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1961 – 1964 Soil Scientist, Marquette, MI • 1964 – 1967 Project Leader for Delta County and West Unit of Hiawatha National Forest Soil Survey, Escanaba, MI • 1967 – 1978 Area 1 (Upper Peninsula of MI) Soil Scientist, Marquette, MI • 1978 – 1984 Project Leader, Baraga County Area Soil Survey, L'Anse, MI • 1984 – 1985 Project Leader, Houghton County Soil Survey, Handcock, MI • 1985 – 1993 Assistant State Soil Scientists, East Lansing, MI <p>He received the Melvin Jones Award from the Lions Club. His hobbies include birding, traveling, and gardening and is currently a volunteer driver for the Senior Center. He was a Partner and manager for the Berndt Brothers Vineyards from 1990 – 2017 and Lake Charter Township Supervisor from 1996 – 2002.</p>

McCain	Thomas Daniel	2024	<p>Thomas Daniel McCain was born 11/11/1940 in Delphi, Indiana. He is a graduate of Purdue University with a BS degree in agronomy (June, 1962). He was a soil conservationist with SCS in Monticello, Portland, and Lafayette. He then served as district conservationist in Williamsport (1964–1968) and Fort Wayne (1968–1987). He worked in the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) from 1987 to 1994. He retired on 4/22/94 as an agronomist. He worked with Dave Schertz on the Crop Residue Management Team. He worked as a consultant in Crop Residue Management with the agricultural industry from 1992 to 1998.</p> <p>His interests after retiring include history and non-profit organizations. He was president of the Wabash & Erie Canal Association for 22 years after retiring in 1994. He is a member of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.</p> <p>He became an Earth Team Volunteer in Indiana on the day that he retired in 1994. Shortly thereafter the SCS was renamed the NRCS. He says that "My seven years at the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) were the most exciting and productive time of my career. I traveled to 38 states and three countries, speaking or coordinating meetings or gathering information. I was responsible for the collection of county level crop residue acreage data from 3,092 counties in the US, and disseminating these data to the agricultural industry, government entities, and the farm media from 1987 through 1994."</p> <p>Dan's contact information is 3198 North 700 West, Delphi, IN 46923; 765-412-4308; dan.mccain@gmail.com.</p>
Hole	Thornton J.F.	2024	<p>Senior conservationist Thornton Hole was born Aug. 2, 1931, in Wapakoneta, Auglaize County, Ohio. He received a BS degree in Agronomy (Soil Science) from Ohio State University in June 1954. He married Joanne Sitler, Aug 21, 1955, in Columbiana, OH. They were married nearly 65 years when she passed away in 2020. They had two sons, John, and Kevin; and three daughters, Rebecca, Karen, and Pamela. They have eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.</p> <p>Thornton began his SCS career as a student trainee in 1952 (GS2) and 1954 (GS4) in Columbus, OH. Upon graduation, June 1954, he was assigned as a Soil Scientist in Tiffin OH (GS 5,7,9). He and Charles Innis found a collection of Peccary bones which were given to Bowling Green University, OH for identification. In 1963, Thornton was reassigned to the Erie County Soil Survey Party, Sandusky, OH(GS9). In 1966 Thornton was reassigned to the Washington County Soil Survey Party at Marietta, OH (GS9). He left Ohio and went to New Jersey in 1969, where he was assigned to the Atlantic County Soil Survey Party in Mays Landing, NJ (GS11). He worked in Mays Landing until 1974, when he was assigned to the Ocean County Soil Survey Party in Toms River, NJ (GS11). In 1978, he returned to the Mays Landing office as the District Conservationist for the Cape-Atlantic Soil</p>

			<p>Conservation District. In 1988, Thornton then became the Soil Scientist (GS11) for Southern Jersey based in Hammonton, NJ. He worked there until he retired in 1994.</p> <p>Thornton served in the US Army Reserves for 28 years. While in the Reserves he completed all the required Military training and was on active duty from 1955 to 1957. He was stationed in Battery B, 176 AA Missile Battalion Edgemont, PA (Philadelphia Air defense). He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>After retirement, Thornton and his wife had the opportunity to travel the world, visiting Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, Alaska, Canada, and South America. Currently he is enjoying researching his Genealogy and maintaining his flower garden.</p> <p>Thornton's contact information: 215 Boston Avenue, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215; Tel. 609-965-2502; cell 609-705-5507joacky@aol.com</p>
Franklin Evans	Carey	2024	<p>Senior conservationist Carey Franklin Evans was born February 25, 1941 in Edenton, North Carolina. He married Loretta B. Evans, 02/25/1962. They had one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, and 2 Great Grandchildren.</p> <p>Carey began his SCS career as a surveying aid from 1961 to 1964 in Chowan County, NC. He worked as a civil engineering technician in Pender County from 1964 to 1968; in Pitt County from 1968 to 1973; and in Wake County from 1973 to 2003. He retired on 12/31/2003 in Raleigh, NC.</p> <p>Carey received the NRCS Employee of the Year Award by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation in 1997. The Wake County SWCD presented him their Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award for 2003. The NC Irrigation Society presented Carey their Irrigation Award for 2004. He also received the North Carolina Department of Transportation Roadside Environmental Award for 2005 to 2006. He was also an Eco Turf Environmental Inspector from 2006 to 2008. He has also been active with the NC Baptist Men Disaster Relief Organization, which has entailed travelling to provide his services.</p> <p>Carey received several NRCS Work Performance Awards during his career.</p> <p>Carey's contact information: 1124 Alcott Ct., Raleigh, NC 27609; Tel. 919-801-8738; fevans2@nc.rr.com.</p>
Bogard	John R. "Dick"	2024	<p>John R. "Dick" Bogard was born 09-16-1940 in Norman, OK. He graduated Oklahoma State University with a BS in Agronomy/Soils in 1962. He married Cloyce Avon Bogard on 03-21-1964. Sons: Vinson D. Bogard McKinney, TX; Alan V. Bogard, Portland, OR. Grandchildren: Sklar, Pierce, and Hannah. Sixty-year wedding anniversary 03-21-2024.</p>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bogard	Michael H.	2024	<p>Michael H. Bogard was born 02-26-1941 in San Sabo, TX. He graduated Texas A&M University with a BS degree in 1967. He is married to Mary Beth Bogard, and they have a son and a grandson. Before working with the SCS, he worked on farms and in a feed store. He retired September 2003 as a District Conservationist in Groesbeck, TX.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GS-5, Soil Conservationist, Vernon, Texas, June 1967 – July 1968. ○ GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Memphis, Texas, July 1968 – March 1970. ○ GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Lamesa, Texas, March 1970 – July 1974. ○ GS-9, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, July 1974 – January 1975. ○ GS-11, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, January 1975 – 1998. ○ GS-12, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, 1998 – 2003. <p>He worked part time for a consulting service from 203 to 2005. He plays golf and is in very good health.</p> <p>Michael's contact information: 108 Sunny Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528; cell (580) 745-4300, home (254) 248-7795; email mbogard41@gmail.com.</p>
Ulery	Nevin Lyle	2024	<p>Nevin Lyle Ulery was born September 3rd, 1941 at Alverton, PA. He graduated from Connellville Joint Senior High School in 1959 and earned his B.S. degree in Agronomy at Penn State U. (PSU) in June, 1963. He and his wife Judy grew up on adjoining dairy farms in Fayette County, PA and have been married for 60 years. They have two married daughters, Beth of Elizabeth, PA and Amy of Oak Harbor, WA. They also have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.</p> <p>Nevin began his SCS career as a student trainee in York County (1960), Washington County (1961), and Butler County in 1962. Upon graduation from PSU, he worked as a soil conservationist in Bucks, York, and Chester Counties. He served as the Work Unit Conservationist in Northumberland and Erie Counties before becoming RC&D Coordinator for the Penn's Corner RC&D Area. During this time the RC&D Area expanded from five to nine counties in southwestern PA. He also served on the Rural Abandoned Mine Program inventory team in 15 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. He retired in January, 2003.</p> <p>During his SCS career Nevin received several outstanding performance ratings. He was awarded the ARCSE President's Outstanding Community Service Award om 2011. The PA Project Grass Program gave him a Life-Time Achievement Award. The Westmoreland County</p>

Conservation District gave him a Service Award for Contributions to Conservation and the Quality of Life in Westmoreland County. He was also given an award for Volunteerism from the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Nevin served in the PA National Guard for six years and was activated by the Governor of PA to help stop rioting in Pittsburgh, PA following the death of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

He has been active in the United Methodist Church since his childhood. At present he serves on the board of trustees of Central Highland Community United Methodist Church at Elizabeth, PA. He also serves as coordinator of the "Hands of the Carpenter" volunteer program, which builds ramps for the elderly and handicapped in the surrounding community. The volunteers also do minor repair work for folks in this urban/rural community. In his "spare time" he enjoys working in his flower and vegetable gardens.

He has served in various positions with the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He also has been active with several Rails to Trails groups in southwest PA. He participated in mission work for several years at Heart and Hand House in Phillipi, WV. He also spent two weeks doing home repairs on the Navaho Reservation at Shiprock,

NM. In 2007 he spent two weeks in Ankaase, Ghana in West Africa where he worked with a team from PA to do maintenance and repair work at a local rural hospital.

Judy and Nevin enjoy traveling around the USA and have visited over 30 national parks and all 50 states. They have also travelled to Israel twice and to Egypt and Jordan. In 2022 they visited Costa Rica and have gone on five cruises.

Although he has been dealing with chronic kidney failure for several years, he is in good overall health. Nevin and Judy currently reside at 415 Stoneybrook Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037; 412-384-3574; njulery@gmail.com.

Heidecker	Robert	2023	<p>Robert Heidecker was born on October 25, 1939 at Bethlehem, PA. He earned his BS degree at Penn State in June, 1961. His wife, Carole J., passed away 9/22. He has one son, one daughter, and two grandchildren and grew up on a farm near Quakertown, PA.</p> <p>He started with SCS as a student trainee soil scientist in 1959 and was assigned to a field location as a soil conservationist in 1961. He served in the US Army beginning in 1962, six months active duty and 5½ years reserved duty, with honorable discharge in 1968. He served as a soil conservationist in 1962 and served as a work unit conservationist from 1962 through 1974, then as Area Conservationist beginning in 1974, and State Resource Conservationist in 1978. He retired in January, 1997, in Harrisburg, PA.</p> <p>Bob did assessments of large National Pork Producers Association operations for three years. His hobbies include gardening and being an avid Penn State football fan. He is an active member of the Carlisle Reformed Presbyterian Church. He became a Master Gardener through the Extension Service in 1998, receiving his Master Gardener Emeritus status in 2008. In cooperation with the Cumberland County Nursing Home, he developed Extension Service trial and demonstration gardens and received an award as Garden of the Month featured on the front page of the Carlisle newspaper. The gardens were used to educate the public on gardening.</p> <p>He is a past President of the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and also past President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of ARCSE for five years. He has presented numerous technical papers at SWCS national meetings. Bob has had some serious health problems including advanced prostate cancer, for which he received a life-time dose of radiation treatments in 2003.</p> <p>Bob can be reached at 6 Enck Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007' 717-258-3328; carbobs39@comcast.net.</p>
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Ulmer	Ross L.	2023	<p>Ross Ulmer was born 02/24/1939 in Angola, Indiana. He earned his BS degree in agricultural engineering in 1961, at Purdue University. He grew up on a dairy farm in northern Indiana. He began his career on the SCS Engineering Staff in West Lafayette, Indiana, in 1961. He served in the US Army in Germany from 1962 to 1964, then returned to the SCS as Project/Area Engineering from 1965 to 1970 in Sullivan, Indiana. He was a Planning Engineer from 1970 to 1974 in Paoli, Indiana. He served as Assistant State Engineer in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1974 through 1994, when he retired from the NRCS.</p> <p>He worked part time for an engineering firm in Jackson, Mississippi from 1994 through 2002. He was also an engineering consultant on small dams in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1994 through 2002, and an engineering consultant on small dams in McDonough, Georgia from 2002 through 2020.</p> <p>He currently serves as Deacon in his Church and also teaches Sunday School. He enjoys traveling, gardening, and fishing and says that he is blessed with good health. He cruised the Panama Canal in April of 2023.</p> <p>You can reach Ross at 325 The Gables Dr., McDonough, Georgia 30253; 770-833-4955; ruengrq@att.net. He married Patricia in 1960. She died in 2014. He is married to Marilyn and has one son, one daughter, and two grandchildren.</p>
Rice	John F.	2023	<p>Senior Conservationist John F. Rice was born December 10th, 1932 in Grundy County, MO. He currently lives at 1200 Homelife Plaza, Rolla, MO 65401. He graduated with a BS in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1962.</p> <p>He married Margaret in 1954, and they have one son, three daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. He was in the US Navy for 4 years before starting work for the SCS as an Area Engineer in Missouri from 1964 to 1972. He was the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in North Carolina from 1972 to 1984 and the Drainage and Water Management Engineer at the Midwest National Technical Center in Lincoln, NE from 1984 to 1992 when he retired.</p> <p>After retiring from the NRCS he worked as a consulting engineer, farmer, and Grundy County SWCD Supervisor in Missouri. His hobbies are traveling, fishing, hunting, and gardening.</p> <p>He is currently a church Deacon and Sunday School teacher. He is a board member for a local county museum. He has worked on short-term mission projects with a team to plan and design water supply facilities in three West African countries. He was elected to serve on his local SWCD Board of Supervisors from 1994 to 2022.</p> <p>You can reach John at jmrice3839@gmail.com or by phone at 660-339-2952.</p>

Sampson	Neil	2023	<p>Neil Sampson was born 11/29/1938 in Spokane, WA. He earned his BS degree in agronomy in June, 1960, at the University of Idaho. He earned his MPA in June, 1974, at Harvard University. He has been married to Jeanne Louise Sampson from 1960 to present. They have three sons, Robert, Eric, and Christopher; daughter Heidi; and seven grandchildren.</p> <p>He started work with the SCS as a soil conservationist in Burley, Idaho i960 to 1962. He held the following positions: District Conservationist, Orofino, Idaho, 1962-1967; Dryland Agronomist, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 1967-1968; State Information Specialist, Boise, Idaho, 1968-1972; Program Manager, Land Use, Idaho Planning Agency (on IPA loan), 1972-1973; Soil Conservationist, Land Use Division, Washington, DC, 1974-1976; and Acting Director, Environmental Services Division, Washington, DC, 1976-1978, when he retired. He received the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society.</p> <p>After retiring in 1978, he held the following positions: Executive V-P, National Association of Conservation Districts, Wash. DC 1978-1984; Exec V-P, American Forests, Washington DC, 1984-1995; President, The Sampson Group, Alexandria, VA, 1995-2000; and President, Vision Forestry, Salisbury, MD, 1999-2018.</p> <p>He is the author of over 100 book chapters, journals, and popular articles, including <u>Farmland or Wasteland: A Time to Choose</u> (1981) and <u>For Love of the Land</u> (1985).</p> <p>You can reach Neil at 5209 York Road, Alexandria, VA 22310; 703-971-8238; neilsampson38@gmail.com.</p>
Page	Ronald C.	2023	<p>Senior Conservationist Ronald C. Page was born November 22nd, 1939, in Paterson, NJ, graduated from the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ, received a BA in geology from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, and an MS in geology from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. In 1961 he married his college sweetheart Lois Mecum.</p> <p>Ron's began his career as a geologist in Harrisburg, PA, on the Susquehanna River Basin staff in 1963. Moving to Syracuse, NY, he continued his career in geology on the Watershed Planning staff and then to Somerset, New Jersey. From there he became the Watershed/River Basin staff leader in Lansing, MI, an Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in Athens, GA.</p> <p>In 1980 he accepted a position on the Watershed Planning Staff at Headquarters where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Primary responsibilities included the keeping the watershed planning manual up-to-date, Coordinator of the RC&D program and finally as the EWP coordinator.</p>

			<p>As a graduate student at WVU, Ron held a part-time lab assistant position with the WVU Geological Survey while compiling a geologic map of the Martinsburg, WV quadrangle which was published in 1965. He was also known for establishing a combined Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement into one document in 1972.</p> <p>Since retiring, Ron and Lois have remained in the Northern Virginia area where they are active in their church as choir members and elders. Otherwise, they can be found on the golf course, traveling, and volunteering. The family has increased to include three daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.</p> <p>–1995 to present, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Associate Director and Professional Engineer Volunteer.</p>
Hardy	Lee	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist Leland “Lee” Hardy was born and raised in LaGrande, Oregon. Lee graduated from Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) with a BS Degree in Agricultural Engineering. SCS employment consisted of four Oregon Field Engineer Positions, Oregon Area Engineer, Oregon State Planning Engineer, Arizona State Irrigation Engineer, and a 25-State NTC Irrigation Engineer position in Lincoln, Nebraska.</p> <p>Upon NRCS retirement in 1995, H & R Engineering, Inc. was formed with Elwin Ross (WNTC Irrigation Engineer, retired) to provide on-farm and ranch engineering. Bruce Wilson (Oregon Agricultural Engineer, retired) was added in 2007. Retired SCS/NRCS engineers, geologists, agronomists, and a soil scientist have been used to provide other discipline inputs.</p> <p><i>Honors Received</i></p> <p>–1960 to 1995 Multiple SCS/NRCS awards.</p> <p>–1993 National Irrigation Association “Person of the Year” award.</p> <p>–2006 Pacific Northwest Section American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers (ASABE) “Engineer of the Year” award.</p> <p>–2008 Oregon Association of Conservation Districts “Associate Director of the Year”.</p> <p>–2020 Oregon State University “Diamond Pioneer Agricultural Career Achievement Registry” (for life-long, career contributions to Oregon Agriculture).</p> <p><i>Special Experience, Publications, Volunteer Activities, etc.</i></p>

- 1967 Oregon Professional Engineers License, 1974 Oregon Professional Land Surveyor License and Oregon Certified Water Right Examiner License.
- 1979 Authored first draft of the “SCS Oregon Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook.”
- 1980 Coauthored Interagency proposed “Oregon Waste Management Program – Operation and Control.” (The proposed OWM Program was approved by Oregon Legislature in 1980).
- 1982+ Authored and presented numerous “White Papers” at American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Irrigation Association National meetings.
- 1988 Authored Arizona SCS field pamphlet, “Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance.” The field pamphlet was approved for National NRCS distribution including being reformatted into Spanish in about 2000.
- 1993 Contribution, review of materials and edited SCS National Engineering Handbook Part 623 “Irrigation Water Requirements” Handbook.
- 1994 Managed Funds, Coordinated with University of Arizona staff, contributed material and edited two 30–minute PBS Quality, SCS funded, Educational Videos “How Water Moves Through Soil” and “How Chemicals Move through Soil.”
- 1995 Co-authored with Elwin Ross NRCS “National Irrigation Guide, NEH Part 652.” Coordinated intra–agency review and resolved suggestions.
- 1995 to present Co-owner and Senior Engineer “H & R Engineering, LLC. (Formerly H & R Engineering Inc).
- 1996 Coauthored American Society of Civil Engineers, “Selection of Farm Irrigation Methods” Manual.
- 1997 Contribution and review of materials for USDI Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Agriculture Research Service and USDA National Resource Conservation Service “Water Measurement Manual.”
- 1995 to present Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Associate Director and Professional Engineer Volunteer.

Brasfield	James F.	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist James F. Brassfield was born July 10, 1931, at Gadsden, TN. Gadsden is a town in Crockett County and lies about 20 miles NW of Jackson, TN. James was raised on his family's farm and attended community schools. Following high school, he served in the U.S. Navy from Nov. 27, 1950, until his honorable discharge on August 26, 1954 as Yeoman 2nd Class Petty Officer YN2. James had enrolled in the University of Tennessee - Martin but later transferred to the main campus in Knoxville under the GI bill. He graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy.</p> <p>James began his career with SCS as a student trainee at Shelbyville, Bedford County, TN. The following summers found him as a trainee in Pulaski, Giles County, and back in Shelbyville. When he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville he was assigned to the Williamson County, TN office. James applied for a fellowship to Iowa State University and was accepted as a graduate student. He took courses during the regular terms and spent two summers mapping glacial and loessal soils, first in Bremer County and then in Cass County with the SCS Survey Party in each. Upon successful completion of his Master of Science, "Soil Genesis and Classification" in 1961, James returned to Tennessee. He was assigned to Robertson County, but had been there for only three months, when he was assigned to Warren County where he later was leader of the Soil Survey Party. Following completion of that survey, he was assigned to lead the soil survey in DeKalb County, TN. During this survey, James was asked to join the World Soil Geography Unit in Hyattsville, MD. After security clearance, he transferred to the Unit on Dec., 1965. He worked there for 3 1/2 years. In July 1969, James was assigned to SCS Florida operations as Assistant State Soil Scientist. He held this position until 1977, when he was transferred to the South National Technical Center, Ft. Worth, TX. While working there he was promoted to a GS-13 Soils Correlator. James worked there until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1987.</p> <p>After retirement, James and his wife Helen, moved to Humphreys County, TN. They built their home on a farm that James had bought in the early 1960s. From 1987 to 2010, James worked his beef cattle operation. Sadly, Helen passed away in 2005. They had been married 43 years. In 2011, James married LeAnn McCrary Hollis. James has two stepdaughters, three stepsons, four step-grandchildren, and five step-great grandchildren. In addition to family activities, he reports that he enjoys hiking and being in nature as well as investing in the stock market.</p>
Hardy	Leland	2022	Upon my 1995 retirement, Elwin Ross (WNTC Irrigation Engineer) and I formed H & R Engineering to provide on-farm and ranch engineering. In the beginning we worked more than full time. We added Bruce Wilson (Oregon SCS/NRCS Agricultural Engineer) when he retired in 2007.

			<p>Elwin retired the second time in 2009, and I think 2023 will be my year to do the same. When projects needed, H & R Engineering hired retired SCS/NRCS Geologists and Agronomist plus a Soil Scientist.</p> <p>In June, Pat and I moved into Capital Manor, a Retirement Community in west Salem, OR. Our new address is 1955 Salem Dallas Hwy. NW, Apt. 922, Salem, OR 97304.</p>
Wehri	Tom	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist Tom Wehri was born April 6, 1939 in Kalida Ohio. Tom was the oldest of 10 children and was raised on his family's general purpose dairy farm. Tom grew up thinking he was going to be a farmer.</p> <p>Military service for Tom and the economic conditions of the 1950s were such that working off his family's farm became a necessity. After high school a county agent connected Tom with SCS, and he started work with SCS as a WAE (GS-2) Technician.</p> <p>The opportunity to attend college with help from the GI Bill made it possible to move from his technician position to various leadership positions with SCS/NRCS. Tom's educational background includes a BS in Civil Engineering from Ohio State University in 1972 and a Master's in Public Administration degree from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 1982.</p> <p>Tom recognizes he has many people in SCS/NRCS to thank for their support and encouragement along his career journey. In Tom's own words speaking about out agency, "We are a great family."</p> <p>For Tom his most satisfying positions were his initial Technician Position and his position as a State Conservationist (Arkansas). In Tom's own words again, "When in the field you see conservation installed on the ground. As a State Conservationist, you can work with strong local personnel and partners again to install conservation practices. To see conservation work get done made me feel proud." Tom spent considerable time working in Washington, DC in various positions helping to manage our agency's National Watershed and EWP Programs. Tom also worked as a Program leader and Planner in Watershed Development in Idaho and California.</p> <p>Over the past 20 years Tom has been working closely with local Conservation Districts. He served as the Executive Director for a group of 100 Resource Conservation Districts for 8 years and is a Past President. He works especially close with his local Placer County RCD which has grown from a two-person staff to 17 now. Tom clearly understands the value of the NRCS/RCD partnership in getting conservation on the ground.</p> <p>Tom and his wife Naomi of 61 years currently live in Roseville CA. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Tom</p>

			<p>enjoys golf, senior hiking, traveling, and photography of landscapes and natural resources.</p>
Slayback	Bob	2022	<p>My name is Robert (Bob) Slayback, retiree from the Soil Conservation Service in 1994. I was born in Los Angeles on November 21, 1935. My educational experience began at Oregon State, then transferring to U.C. Davis with a degree in Range Management in 1960. I was married to Jane Slayback until 1995. Jane and I had 3 sons. I currently live with my present wife, Norma. Together, we have 15 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Norma and I reside in Lodi, California.</p> <p>My varied work experience began as a grocery clerk at age 15. While in Oregon, I was employed by the Coos Forest Patrol and also spent many years as a milker at the family dairy farm. I was enrolled in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957.</p> <p>My career with the Soil Conservation Service began in Lakeport, CA as a soil conservationist from 1960 to 1962. I held the same position at the Pleasanton Plant Material Center from 1962 to 1966. From 1966 to 1972, I was the manager of the Plant Material Center in Tucson, AR. From Tucson, our family moved to Syracuse, NY where I was a plant material specialist from 1972-1974. I was then transferred to Lockeford, CA. Plant Material Center with the same position from 1974-1980. My final employment was in Davis, California. I retired early in 1994 to be with my wife, Jane, who had terminal ovarian cancer.</p> <p>In 1983, I was certified as a Professional Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist, and I was president of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in 1985. I authored numerous articles and presentations at various conferences.</p> <p>In my earlier years, I sang in the Berkeley Chorus and SPEBQSIA (barbershop quartets). Since retirement, I have enjoyed participating in</p>

			<p>the Lodi Rotary Club, serving as president in 2010–2011. I have also been participating in the Master Gardener's Club as a certified Master Gardener. I have been privileged to serve as an Elder at my local church." - Bob Slayback</p>
Brasfield	James F.	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist James F. Brasfield was born July 10, 1931, at Gadsden, TN. Gadsden is a town in Crockett County and lies about 20 miles northwest of Jackson. James was raised on his family's farm and attended community schools. Following high school, he served in the U.S. Navy from November 27, 1950, until his Honorable Discharge on August 26, 1954 as Yeoman 2nd Class Petty Officer YN2. James had enrolled in the University of Tennessee-Martin but later transferred to the main campus in Knoxville under the GI Bill. He graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy.</p> <p>James began his career with SCS as a student trainee At Shelbyville, Bedford County, TN. The following summers found him as a trainee in Pulaski, Giles County, and back in Shelbyville. When he graduated from University of Tennessee at Knoxville he was assigned to the Williamson County, TN, office. James applied for and was accepted as a graduate student at Iowa State University. He took courses during the regular terms and spent two summers mapping loessial soils first in Bremer County and then in Cass County with the SCS Survey Party in each. Upon successful completion of his Master of Science degree (Soil Genesis and Classification) in 1961, James returned to Tennessee. He was assigned to Robertson County, but had been there for only three months when he was reassigned to Warren County where he was Leader of the Survey Party. Following completion of that survey, he was assigned to lead the soil survey of DeKalb County, TN. As this survey was completed, James was approached to apply for a fellowship from Iowa State University to work in the World Soil Geography Unit. He spent eight weeks in this highly specialized unit. James was then assigned to SCS Florida operations as Assistant State Soil Scientist.</p>

			<p>He held this position from 1969 until 1977 when he was promoted to GS-13 Soil Correlator at the South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, TX. James worked there until he retired January 1, 1987.</p> <p>After retirement, James and his wife, Helen, moved to Tennessee. They built a home on a farm that James had bought in the early 1960s. From 1987 to 2010, James worked his beef cattle operation. Sadly, Helen passed away in 2005. They had been married since 1962. In 2011, James married Lela A. McCray Hollis. James has two stepdaughters, three stepsons, four step-grandchildren, and five step-greatgrandchildren. In addition to family activities, he reports that he enjoys hiking and being in nature as well as investing in the stock market.</p>
Abbott	James	2022	<p>James Abbott was born in 1924 on a farm in the Bradshaw community near Abilene, Texas as one of seven children. James has three brothers and three sisters. One of his brothers, Everett, was a long-time SCS/NRCS employee.</p> <p>James graduated from Bradshaw High School in 1942 and joined the Marines soon after graduation. James was placed in a parachute battery where he served in 1942 and 1943. After James' military duty he attended Texas Technological College (Texas Tech University) where he graduated with a BS degree in 1947 and a MS degree in Soil Science 1948.</p> <p>Following graduation, James started to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The SCS sent James to four different universities for more training. James worked as a soil scientist in Lamesa, Texas and Littlefield, Texas prior to becoming the Area Conservationist at Lubbock, Texas.</p> <p>On December 23, 1945, James married Euna Hart in Lubbock, Texas. James lost Euna November 15, 2015. James and Euna were blessed to have three daughters born to their marriage.</p> <p>In 1961 James was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist stationed at the state office in Temple, Texas. James served in several positions in the SCS/NRCS Texas State Office until he retired in 1994.</p> <p>James started playing golf when he was about forty years old and was a very good golfer. James has not played golf recently. Jim will be 98 years old in October, and it may be time to retire his golf clubs.</p>

Duester haus	Richard ("Rich")	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist Rich Duesterhaus was born March 28, 1939, at Quincy, IL, the oldest of nine children. Rich's family had a small truck farm. The farm raised tomatoes, sweet corn, and a variety of other vegetables, which were sold to local grocers or on the wholesale market. He attended local schools and after high school attended the University of Illinois where he earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics (Farm Management) in 1960. During his university years, he worked as a Student Trainee with SCS. Rich served as an officer in the U.S. Army with active duty from 1961-62 (18 months). He served in the Army Reserves and National Guard until 1970.</p> <p>He began his full-time SCS career as a Soil Conservationist after graduation. In all, between 1959 and 1970 in Illinois, Rich served as Student Trainee in two locations, Soil Conservationist in three locations, Work Unit District Conservationist in two locations, Resource Conservationist for eight Districts, and Acting Area Conservationist. From 1970 to 1973, Rich held the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at Syracuse. During this period, he earned the Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts (1970) and the Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University (1971). In 1973 he was selected State Conservationist for Maine. He held that position until 1975, when he began his career at SCS National Headquarters.</p> <p>Between 1975 and 1997 when he retired, Rich held the following senior leadership positions with SCS/NRCS and USDA: Assistant to the Administrator for Environmental Development, Assistant Administrator for Planning & Evaluation, Assistant Chief for the Northeast, Assistant Chief for the Midwest, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, a one-year assignment to the Office of the USDA Secretary as Coordinator for Land, Air, Water, and Solid Waste; six month assignment as Deputy Assistant Secretary; and a shorter detail to the Office of Management and Budget.</p> <p>Rich has continued to be vitally involved in conservation matters following retirement. His work after retiring included serving as a contractor on projects for SWCS, Partners in Parks, and the National Association of Conservation Districts. Over the last 20-plus years he has been employed by the National Association of Conservation Districts serving in a number of positions, including Director of Government Affairs, Northeast Regional Representative, Director of Projects and Partnerships, and Senior Advisor. He currently holds the latter position. For the past 14 years he served on a part-time basis as the Executive Director of the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA). He ended that position in February of 2022.</p> <p>Rich and Judie Krapausky married in 1961 and were married over 44 years before she passed in 2006. He married Jude Mollenhauer in 2011. Rich has six sons and two daughters, 21 grandchildren, and two</p>
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			<p>great-grandchildren. Family activities are a very important part of his life.</p> <p>In addition to family activities, Rich has been and remains active in church and community life. Rich is an Eagle Scout and has over 50 years of service as a BSA volunteer leader. He has also been a Girl Scouts of America volunteer leader. He has served on and chaired his Church Parish Council. He has served on the Board and as Vice-President and President of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He was a founding board member and Chair for 18 years for the Shepherds Center of Northern Virginia (a non-profit organization that provides services and programs for older community citizens). Rich still serves on this Board. And, he has served as Board Member, Vice President, and President of the Association of Retired SCS Employees (now ARCSE).</p>
Calverley	Paul H.	2022	<p>Senior Conservationist Paul H. Calverley was born August 27, 1938, in the Los Angeles, California, area near the San Gabriel Mountains. His family owned a lemon grove there. Paul graduated from Camarillo High School and attended the University of California at Davis. During his college years he had summer employment with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Paul married Harriet in 1960. He graduated in 1961 with a B.S. degree in Range Management.</p> <p>Paul's first job with SCS was in Canyon City, OR, as range conservationist. He was promoted in grade while there. His next position was as District Conservationist (DC) at Baker, OR. Following Baker, Paul was transferred to Fossil, OR, as a GS-11 DC. From Fossil he went to Le Grand, OR, as DC. Paul was promoted to Area Conservationist (AC) at Grants Pass, OR, then to Albany, OR, as AC. Paul then was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at</p> <p>Reno, NV. From Reno Paul moved to Davis, CA, as Deputy State Conservationist. Paul was later promoted to State Conservationist for Idaho. Paul was selected to participate in the Legislative Fellowship Program. He was assigned to the office of then Oklahoma U.S. Senator David Boren. Paul completed his 34-year conservation career in 1994.</p> <p>Paul and Harriet remained in Boise following his retirement. They have a row-crop farm in Idaho and a timber/pasture operation in Oregon. Paul has been a Supervisor on the Ada County (ID) Soil and Water Conservation District Board for many years. He served as its chairperson for eight years. Paul is proud of the Ada District's</p>

			<p>accomplishments. There is an active urban conservation program as well as a range and cropland program component. The District has an active pollinator program, too.</p> <p>Paul and Harriet have two sons and five granddaughters. They are active in their church and enjoy spending time in their wooded acreage in Oregon. Paul said that he feels truly blessed. He observed that he has noticed that when things in life aren't going well it has been important for him to look beyond the difficulty – to have faith.</p>
Gooby	Richard	2022	<p>Richard J. Gooby (Dick) was born in Sandpoint, Idaho, June 21st, 1937. Sandpoint is a city in northern Idaho, situated on Lake Pend Oreille about 45 miles north of Coeur d'Alene. He grew up on a farm at Sandpoint where Dick milked four cows by hand twice a day. He attended grade and high school at Sandpoint. After he graduated from high school, Dick got a job with what is now the Farm Services Agency for the summer measuring grain fields in Bonner County. The County Executive Director told him he needed to go to college, or he wouldn't hire him back the next summer. Dick attended the University of Idaho in 1955. He was lucky to have had a good mentor. He graduated in 1960 with a BS degree in agriculture. In 1975 Dick received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Idaho.</p> <p>While in high school and at the University of Idaho Dick played football with Jerry Kramer. Jerry went on to play for the Green Bay Packers and was inducted into the NFL football hall of fame. Dick went on to pursue his career with the Soil Conservation Service.</p> <p>Dick began his SCS career in Idaho. In July 1961 he started as a Soil Conservationist in Rupert, and in 1962 he transferred to Dubois. In 1964 Dick was selected as the District Conservationist at Soda Springs. In January 1966 he moved to Aberdeen as District Conservationist, and in May 1966 he was selected as District Conservationist in Gooding, Idaho. In 1971 he moved to Moscow, Idaho, as the Area Conservationist. In 1974 he was selected for the Pocatello Area Conservationist position. In 1976 Dick left Idaho when he was selected as the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Iowa. In 1983 he moved to Bozeman, Montana as the Deputy State Conservationist.</p>

			<p>In 1988 Dick was selected as the State Conservationist for Montana, the position he held until he retired in 1997.</p> <p>After retirement Dick continued to work with the Tribal Conservation Districts. In 2003 he helped establish the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA), a nonprofit which is the national organization representing the Tribal Conservation Districts. Dick served as the Executive Director of INCA until January 2020.</p> <p>Dick and his wife Mary Ann live on their ranch outside of Twin Bridges, Montana, where they spend their leisure time riding their horses in the nearby mountains. They also raise a small herd of cattle. Dick makes Mary Ann a to-do-list every day. She does all the work, and he takes all the credit.</p> <p><i>Note: The ARCSE Chronicler acknowledges and appreciates Dick's preparation of his own chronicle. The Chronicler has been careful to only lightly touch the text in order to preserve Dick's dry wit.</i></p>
Alt	Rodney M. (Rod)	2021	<p>Rodney M. Alt (Rod) was born and raised on a cattle and wheat ranch southwest of Akron, Colorado. The town of Akron is located about 120 miles northeast of Denver. He went to a one-room grade school through the eighth grade at High Point and Elba schools. He attended high school in Akron where he participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He graduated from high school in May, 1954. Rod then entered Colorado A&M and State University (now Colorado State University) in Ft. Collins. He graduated with a B.S. degree in agronomy in June, 1958.</p> <p>Rod began his career with SCS immediately upon graduation from college. His first assignment was as Soil Scientist at Ft. Morgan, CO. He worked in that capacity until March, 1961 when he was made Soil Conservationist at Cortez, CO. In January, 1963 Rod transferred to Alamosa, CO, as Soil Conservationist. After two years at Alamosa, Rod joined the River Basin Staff at the State Office at Denver. He was Soil Conservationist on that staff until September 1966 when he was made District Conservationist at Cheyenne Wells, CO. Rod was located there until August 1969 when he moved to Springfield, CO, as District Conservationist. In October of 1972 he was made District Conservationist at Pueblo, CO, where he served until March 1974. He accepted the position of Area Conservationist for Sterling/Greeley, CO, in March, 1974, and served that area until March of 1981. Rod was promoted to State Resource Conservationist for Idaho at Boise. He served that state from March, 1981 until March, 1983 when he accepted the job of Soil Conservationist at SCS's National Office. He was at Headquarters from March, 1983 until March, 1986, when he was</p>

			<p>promoted to Deputy State Conservationist for Idaho at Boise. Rod retired in December, 1994.</p> <p>After retirement, Rod worked as a starter/ranger at the Desert Highlands Golf Club in Scottsdale, AZ from October 1998 until May 2011. He and his wife Sally have traveled during retirement. Rod reports that they have been to Europe four times and have visited Scotland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, England, Norway, and the Netherlands. They have lived in Surprise, Arizona, since September, 1997.</p>
Bush	Jesse Charles	2021	<p>Senior Conservationist Jesse Bush was born October 13, 1935, in Montgomery, Alabama. He grew up on his family's corn-and-peanut farm near Eufaula, AL. He attended elementary and high school grades at Baker Hill, AL. He enrolled in Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) with plans to major in civil engineering. However, he received a scholarship from Sears Roebuck that shifted his orientation to agricultural engineering. He graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering in 1958. While in college he worked part time at the USDA-ARS National Tillage Machinery Laboratory located on the campus. During the summer of 1956 Jesse worked as a Student Trainee at Hamilton, AL. Jesse served eight years in the National Guard and was honorably discharged.</p> <p>Jesse began his full-time career with SCS as an Area Engineer Trainee at Decatur, AL, in 1958. He worked there for a year, then was made Area Engineer at Winfield, AL, where he worked for one year. In 1960 he accepted the position of Project Engineer for small watershed construction at Enterprise, AL, and was in that job of a year. In 1961 he took the job of Area Engineer/Project Engineer at Dadeville, AL, where he also served as acting Area Conservationist for seven months in 1969 before moving to Anniston, AL, as Area Engineer/Project Engineer. He served the Anniston Area until 1977 when he joined the River Basin Study Staff at the SCS Alabama State Office at Auburn. He was on that staff as Agricultural/Civil Engineer until 1980.</p> <p>Jesse was then named Leader of the newly formed National Aquaculture Activity Team which was headquartered at Auburn. He led that staff until 1982 when he took the job of Soil Conservationist/Planning Engineer on the Water Resources Planning Staff at the SCS Alabama State Office. Jesse retired from that position with SCS in 1992.</p> <p>Following his retirement, from 1993 until 2008, Jesse worked in private consultancy as a Certified Professional Engineer. This work dealt with</p>

			<p>structures such as those for water retention and channel stabilization. During this time, he also provided expert testimony in legal disputes. Jesse's first wife, Shirley, passed away in January of 1981. Jesse has been married to Glenda since December 1982. He has two sons (one deceased), a daughter, and a stepson. Jesse has seven grandchildren. Jesse indicates that his hobbies are landscape maintenance, plant propagation, travel, and adventure. He and his wife have traveled to 49 of the 50 states plus Canada, Mexico, and Panama. They are active members of First United Methodist Church in Opelika, AL. Jesse says that he feels blessed to have had a career in conservation with SCS.</p>
Robertson	Don	2021	<p>Senior Conservationist Don Robertson was born February 2nd, 1927, on his family's farm near Hugo, Colorado. Hugo is a town located on the plains about 110 miles southeast of Denver. Don attended local schools and graduated in 1945. He was drafted in early 1945 and entered the U.S. Army right after graduation. Don served from 1945 until he was discharged in 1947. He then matriculated at Colorado State University in 1947 and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management.</p> <p>During his university years Don was employed by SCS as a student trainee during the summers of 1949 and 1950. Upon graduation he was sent to Simla, CO, as a soil conservationist. Don worked in that Work Unit until 1953 when he was assigned to the Kiowa PL-566 Watershed Project (Kiowa, CO) as a soil conservationist. He worked in that project until 1956 when he was made District Conservationist at Trinidad, CO. Don worked there until 1961 when he accepted the position of Area Range Conservationist located at Glenwood Springs, CO. In 1967 Don was selected to be State Range Conservationist for New Mexico at Albuquerque. He addressed conservation needs there until 1970 when he was selected to be the State Resource Conservationist for SCS located at Salina, Kansas. He worked in that position until 1973 when he was made Assistant State Conservationist for SCS at Salina. In 1976, Don moved to Portland, OR, when he accepted the job of Regional Plant Materials Specialist for the 13-state West Region. In 1978 he was promoted to Assistant Director of the SCS West National Technical Center at Portland. Don's last position with SCS was Associate Director of the West National Technical Center, to which he was named in 1981. Don retired from SCS in early 1984.</p> <p>Following retirement from Federal service, Don was a part-time instructor in the Landscape Department of Portland Community</p>

			<p>College, Portland, Oregon. He taught there from 1984 until 1994. Don reports that his activities since retirement include his family, genealogical research, golf, and landscape design. Don has served his church in many ways, including congregation officer positions.</p> <p>Don married Beth Rathbun Kiteley in 1948; their marriage ended in 1976. He married Charlene Joyce in 1977; they were together until her passing in 2017. Don has two daughters, two sons, two stepdaughters, and one stepson. He has seven grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. He also is blessed with seven great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Don included a short letter with his completed questionnaire. In it he thanked ARCSE for encouraging Senior Conservationist candidates to come forward. He noted, "At age 94 it should be time, I guess." We sincerely appreciate Don's life and career and his willingness to share both.</p>
Johnson	Glen	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist A. Glen Johnson was born Feb. 9, 1936, in Burlington, North Dakota, to Arthur and Olava Johnson. Burlington is about eight miles northeast of Minot. Glen began his education in a one-room country school near Coulee, ND. In 1945 the family moved to a farm at Hartland where he completed grade school and later graduated from the Dakota Lutheran High School, Minot, ND in 1954. He earned his BS Degree from Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, WA in 1959.</p> <p>He and his brother Curt took over the family farm in 1959 and continued operating the farm for the next seven years. During that time, he also served in the Army as a medic; this included duty during the Berlin crisis. In addition, Glen taught high school social studies at Des Lacs, ND. He earned his Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from North Dakota State University, after which he began his career with Soil Conservation Service as a trainee in the West Regional Technical Center.</p> <p>He moved to Casper, Wyoming, as the State Economist, then transferred to the Washington State office as Watershed Planning Party leader. He then moved to the West Regional Technical Center as Regional Economist for the 13 Western States. He met and married his wife Linda while there and they lived in Vancouver, WA. In 1976 he was promoted to the National Headquarters as National Economist on the Watershed staff. While in transit, Headquarters was reorganized (he had three different supervisors while in transit) and he was assigned to the Economics Division staff. He later moved to the Watershed Planning staff from which he retired in 1986. He and Linda were divorced. After retirement he enjoyed living at Lake Anna and selling real estate part time. He moved to Sebring, FL in 1990, spending the</p>

			<p>winter there and summers back on his farm at Hartland, ND. He now spends the winters in Mesa, AZ where he purchased a home in the Fountain of the Sun Resort. In summer he resides in Berthold, ND.</p>
Newcombe	Paul R.	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist Paul Newcombe was born in Detroit, Michigan, September 18, 1933. (Less than 18 months later Hugh Hammond Bennett testified before Congress. Paul says that his career with SCS was almost fore-ordained.) Paul's family moved to Saint Louis, MO, where he started elementary school. They later moved to Lincoln, NE, where his father worked in the war industry. Paul graduated from high school in Lincoln. During high school he worked in retail sales. After high school he served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He married Kathryn Cruise in August of 1956. Following his military service, he enrolled in the University of Nebraska. He graduated from its College of Business in January of 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree. During his college years he worked as a part-time mail carrier.</p> <p>In July 1959 Paul was hired by SCS as an Administrative Assistant Trainee at the Nebraska State Office in Lincoln. He worked in that capacity for a year. Then in July 1960 he moved to Columbia, MO, first as Administrative Assistant until October of 1966. From October 1966 until August 1967 Paul held the position of Personnel Management Specialist at Columbia. He then accepted the position of Administrative Officer of the Northeast Technical Service Center and Training Center located in Upper Darby, PA. He served in that capacity for the Center and the region from July 1967 until May 1971. Paul then moved to SCS National Headquarters. During his almost 19-year career there he served first as Budget Officer in the Budget Branch of the Budget and Finance Division. He then was promoted to Budget Branch Chief, then Director of the Budget and Finance Division. His last job before he retired January 1, 1990, was Director of the Financial Management Division. Following his retirement from Federal service, Paul worked as an auditor in the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Taxation. He served in this position from 1991 until 2004.</p> <p>Paul has received many honors during his career. Among them are Certificates of Appreciation for his work to introduce computer</p>

			<p>technology into USDA and SCS manual financial systems. He served as a member of "Reform 88" and other management initiatives to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal financial systems (1982-1984). In 1974, while in Upper Darby, he was a member of the Regional Council of Federal Agencies in Philadelphia which worked to identify and provide employment opportunities for mentally and physically handicapped persons and released perpetrators of non-violent crimes. He was the recipient of a Certificate of Merit from the Federal Service Joint Crusade for his outstanding service in support of the international relationship agencies: the American-Korean Foundation, Radio Free Europe, and CARE. During his time with the Virginia Department of Taxation, Paul was a member of the field team that tested and implemented the Department's conversion from a fundamentally manual auditor system to modern computer and statistical methods.</p> <p>Paul and his wife Kathryn (deceased) had two sons, Keith and Dean (deceased). Paul lists his hobbies as social bridge, ballroom dancing, and golf. He also is engaged in bible studies as a facilitator. He is a member of The American Legion, Greenspring Post 123, as Commander.</p> <p>Paul writes "Throughout the past seventy years working in public enterprises, state and federal governments, and charitable organizations, I was always learning new endeavors and changing business practices and organizations to new ways to perform work and work environments 'To Do Less, To Do More.' And even now in my third retirement I am not done. Old rocking chair needs dusting."</p>
Talmadge	Wiggins	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist Talmadge Wiggins was born in Bryson City, NC. Bryson City is the county seat of Swain County in southwestern NC. It is about 65 miles west of Asheville. Talmadge grew up in Bryson City until his 8th year when his family moved to the farm outside of town, where he spent the rest of his formative years. The farm grew feed for livestock and some corn for market. He reports that he worked at his uncle's ice plant for two summers "pulling ice" and serving customers.</p> <p>Talmadge attended North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering where he graduated in June 1957 with a B.S. degree in Animal Science. During his college years he held several jobs at the school. He assisted in the forage crops research, worked as office assistant in the office of the Head of the Agronomy Department, and cared for bulls in the humidity and heat research chambers at the dairy farm. During his sophomore year he became an SCS Student Trainee and worked in that program in Swain County during the summers of 1955 and 1956.</p> <p>Upon graduation, Talmadge was hired by SCS as a Soil Conservationist in the Raleigh (NC) Field Office. He was in that job until 1960 when he was selected to be Work Unit Conservationist at Lenoir City, NC. He was there for two years and then moved back to Raleigh</p>

			<p>as Work Unit Conservationist in 1962. Talmadge held that position until 1969. During his time at the Raleigh Field Office, he spent nine months in graduate study at NC State's Agricultural Policy Institute. From Raleigh he was made RC&D Coordinator located at Andrews, NC, where he worked until 1975. In 1975 he was selected to be Area Conservationist located at Wilkesboro, NC. He retired from Federal service there in 1990. After retirement, Talmadge worked as Watershed Coordinator at Stokes County, NC.</p> <p>Talmadge married Marjorie Jackson in December, 1956 and have a son, a daughter, and one grandchild. Guests at their 60th wedding anniversary party included some who were present at their wedding. He has listed his hobbies as travel (they have visited all 50 states), landscape maintenance, and trout fishing (now a pastime of the past). He has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and notes with special appreciation his years as a Habitat volunteer. He is also engaged in lay work at their church. He says that he has seen the difference that home ownership makes in the lives of people, and that he has "lived long enough to see some of the children we helped to have a stable home environment grow to adult life."</p>
Dornbusch	August (Gus)	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist August (Gus) Dornbusch was born August 18, 1936, in Wamego, Kansas. Wamego is a city in Pottawatomie County on the Kansas River about 16 miles east of Manhattan. Gus was raised on his family's farm and attended local schools. Upon graduation he attended Kansas State University in Manhattan. Gus graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in January 1959.</p> <p>Gus began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in June of 1960 as an engineer at Hiawatha, KS. He was there for a year, when in June 1961 he was selected to be the Watershed Engineer at Atchison, KS. In January 1965 he was named Project Engineer at Cedar Vale, KS, and served in that capacity until February 1967. Gus then moved to Frankfort, KY, as Project Engineer. In August 1970 Gus was selected to be Assistant State Engineer at Champaign, IL. He served there for two years when he was named State Conservation Engineer for Georgia at Athens in August 1972. While still located in Athens Gus was given a detail assignment to the EPA Region IV Office in Atlanta to work on nonpoint pollution control strategies. That assignment lasted from February 1977 until August 1978 when he took the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Programs at Scottsdale, AZ. Gus was there until June 1981 when he was named Deputy State Conservationist at Champaign, IL. In June 1984 Gus became State Conservationist at Bismarck, ND, and served that state until January 1988, He was then selected to be the Director of the National Technical Center at Lincoln, NE. Gus retired from the Director position in January of 1995.</p>

			<p>Gus has received many awards and honors during his life and career. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star medal for valor during his service in Viet Nam in 1969. During his agency career he received many performance awards. He led a national team that created the plan for SCS's updated national computer capability. He also played a significant role in SCS's international exchanges. In 1980 Gus hosted the first technical delegation from the People's Republic of China for a month as they examined conservation practices in the lower 48 states. He was a member of a technical team to the PRC in 1981. And, he led a team to Denmark in 1983.</p> <p>Post-retirement, Gus has been active in civic and community activities as well as in ARCSE. His participation in Kiwanis International includes many leadership positions including that of Governor of the Nebraska-Iowa Region. He has been active in the Tom and Nancy Osborne Team Mates Mentoring Program since 1997. He has received the Carmen and Tony Messineo Community Award in 2011 and 2016 for his effective support of the Team Mates Program.</p> <p>Gus and his wife Donna are active in Saint Mark's United Methodist Church in Lincoln. Gus mentors school children and enjoys golf, gardening and world travel. Their list of destinations includes China, Iceland, Russia, France, Sweden, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland, Ireland, Mexico, and Israel.</p> <p><i>–Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler</i></p>
Garrett	Coy A.	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist Coy A. Garrett was born January 13, 1936, in San Angelo, Texas. San Angelo is located about 225 miles southwest of Fort Worth. At that time that part of Texas was sheep and goat country. Coy graduated from San Angelo High School in 1954. He enrolled in Texas A&M University for one semester and then transferred to Texas Tech University. At Texas Tech he met Barbara Stegall from Lubbock, Texas, and they married August 16, 1957.</p> <p>Also in 1957 Coy began his career with SCS as a Student Trainee in Plainview, Texas. After graduating from Texas Tech in 1958 with a degree in Agricultural Education, Coy served as Soil Conservationist in Lubbock, Texas, until he entered the US Army in February 1959. He completed basic training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and then was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for advanced training. Upon completion of his training, Coy was transferred to Fort Lee, Virginia, where he worked for the Commanding General, Alfred Denniston. Prior to his discharge, he received a direct commission as Second Lieutenant and served in the Texas National Guard for several years.</p> <p>After his discharge from the army in February 1961, Coy went to Muleshoe, Texas, as Soil Conservationist. In 1962 he was transferred to Cuba, New Mexico, as a GS-9 District Conservationist. While in Cuba their first son, Jim, was born in 1963. Coy was transferred to</p>

Santa Fe, New Mexico, as a GS-11 District Conservationist in 1964 where their second son, Jay, was born in 1965. From 1967-1970 Coy was assigned to the Office of the Inspector General in the Kansas City Midwest Region. In 1970 Coy was selected Assistant Area Conservationist in Manhattan, Kansas. From there in 1972 he went to Dodge City, Kansas, as Area Conservationist. Then, in 1975, he accepted the position in SCS National Headquarters of Management Analyst in the Management Division. In 1979 Coy was selected to be the State Conservationist for Vermont and worked there two years. From 1981-1985 Coy served as State Conservationist for North Carolina. This was the first of two stops in North Carolina as State Conservationist

In 1985 Coy was selected as the State conservationist for Texas. His sons liked North Carolina so well that they did not move to Texas. Two years later he moved to NHQ as the Assistant Chief for the South. Tragically, Coy and Barbara's son, Jim, was killed in an automobile accident in Raleigh in 1991.

In 1992 he returned to North Carolina as State Conservationist until his retirement April 1, 1994. After working in four states (two of them twice), serving in the National Headquarters two different times, and after 15 moves, Coy (maybe Barbara) decided it was time to retire. Raleigh is home, but he and Barbara enjoy spending time at their beach cottage in Nags Head. Coy enjoys fishing, gardening, and spending time with his son Jay and his wife Julie.

--Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler

Bubb	Frederick E.	2020	<p>Senior Conservationist Frederick (Fred) E. Bubb, was born January 12, 1933, in Williamsport, PA. Williamsport is the county seat of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. It is about 85 miles north of Harrisburg and is situated on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Fred grew up in Williamsport and attended local schools graduating from Williamsport High School in 1950.</p> <p>When he was 12 years old, he worked on a farm that produced certified seed. His job was “mainly hoeing weeds,” as he recounts. He worked there three summers. During high school he had three jobs: two involved transplanting for florists/growers, and the third involved working Saturdays caring for a poultry and truck crop farm while the family was at market. He entered the Pennsylvania State University in 1950 and earned an Associate degree in Farm Mechanics in 1952. Before he could continue, he had to withdraw due to illness. For two years he worked as manager of a dairy farm that was part of a children’s home. He returned to Penn State and completed his college education. Between his junior and senior years he was hired by SCS as a Student Trainee.</p> <p>Upon graduation in 1956 with a degree in General Agriculture, he was assigned to the Center County SCS office in Bellefonte, PA as a GS-5 Soil Scientist. In August of that year Fred married Carol Eakin (who he had met while managing dairy farm mentioned above) and who also graduated from Penn State in 1956. In 1958 Fred was promoted to GS-7 Work Unit Conservationist at Lewisburg, PA. In 1962 he was promoted again to GS-9 Work Unit Conservationist at Allentown, PA. In 1967 he became GS-11 Work Unit Conservationist at Dallas, PA. In 1973, Fred was assigned to be GS-12 Coordinator for the Endless Mountains RC&D at Towanda, PA. Fred served there for four years until he was made GS-12 Public Affairs Specialist at the SCS State Office, Harrisburg, PA, in 1977. He served in that position until 1989 when he was promoted to GS-13/14 Regional Information Officer located at the Northeast National Technical Center at Chester, PA. Fred served there until 1994 when he retired from Federal Service.</p> <p>Fred has related a memorable experience that happened in 1977. He and Walt Jeske (from NHQ) had spent much of the spring and summer that year creating a three-acre SCS exhibit for the National Boy Scout Jamboree (Moraine State Park near Butler, PA). He recounts that “...as we were tearing down the exhibit, I was told to call the [State Office] and was ordered to proceed to the Johnstown Flood recovery. There I picked up an assignment that followed me around: the liaison between SCS and FEMA. I never got to see my family that summer, as the work schedule was seven days a week from 6am to 9pm...” Fred received numerous awards during his career, but the USDA Superior Service Award he received in May 1982 from Secretary of Agriculture John Block is his most special.</p>
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Following retirement, Fred was a bank courier for a five-county area for several years. He then worked for a roadside market as their primary tractor driver. Just after retirement, Fred began making mission trips to Bosnia as the war there was winding down. Over the following 15 years he made 17 trips of two to six weeks in length. It was during one of his first trips that he was approached by a small group of teenagers who asked him to be their “grandfather.” Due to the war there was a shortage of men. These relationships have lasted to this day through letters and email. Fred writes “Now they are married with children, but I am still their grandfather.”

Sadly, Fred’s wife of 62 years, Carol Eakin Bubb, passed away November 18, 2018. Fred and Carol have three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Both Fred and Carol were and continue to be involved in the life and witness of their church.

Holt	Francis T. (Frank)	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist Frank Holt was born October 14, 1934, in Protom, MO. Protom is a community in southeastern Taney County, Missouri, approximately two miles north of the Missouri-Arkansas state line.</p> <p>Frank grew up on his family's beef cow-calf farm and attended local schools through the 8th grade. He then attended School of the Ozarks High School in Point Lookout, MO. After graduation he worked as Forest Technician for the Missouri Department of Conservation from 1952 to 1954. In 1954 he joined the United States Coast Guard and served until 1958. On December 25, 1954, he married Donna Joyce Mottesheard at Branson, MO. After his service with the Coast Guard, Frank enrolled at the University of Missouri – Columbia. He graduated with a B.S. in Forestry in 1962. He continued as a graduate student there and earned an M.S. in Forest Management in 1963 and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology in 1968.</p> <p>After graduate school, Frank was hired by SCS in Missouri where he served as State Forester from 1968 to 1974. In 1974 he became State Forester for California SCS and worked there until 1977.</p> <p>His next position with SCS took him east to Virginia where he was State Resource Conservationist until 1979. He then went to SCS National Headquarters where he held several positions. In 1979 he worked on the Resources Conservation Act initiative as an environmental specialist. After that, he was Acting Associate Director of the USDA Office of Environmental Quality, and National Coordinator of the RC&D Program. Frank left NHQ in 1983 when he was selected to be State Conservationist for Utah. He served in that position until 1994 when he retired from Federal service.</p> <p>Upon retirement, Frank and Donna moved to western North Carolina. Currently he is involved in volunteer efforts with Country Creek Homeowners' Association and other community endeavors in and around Weaverville and Asheville, NC. In May of this year, he completed "The Country Creek Story" a historical account of the development of his community north of Asheville. This December Frank and Donna will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. They have two children, Deborah and David.</p> <p>Frank received a Meritorious Achievement Award from the School of the Ozarks High School Alumni Association, Point Lookout, MO, in November 1979 "for continuing interest and loyalty to the School, Christian living, community service, personal achievement, and influence for the good in the world." He received special recognition by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts in November 1984 and again in November 1988 for strong and sustained support of conservation endeavors in the State of Utah. In 1993 Frank received a Distinguished Service Award presented by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts. He was named a "Friend of Extension" and</p>
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awarded that distinction by the Cooperative Extension Service, Utah State University, in November 1989. His biography is included in the 20th Edition, Marquis' Who's Who in the West and he is listed in the 4th Edition, American Biographical Institute's Personalities of America for "Contributions to USDA's Conservation Programs."

When asked if he would share his philosophy of career and life, Frank related that one must have goals, pursue them, and not look back. The Holts (Frank and Donna) will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on this Christmas Day.

Peterson	John W.	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist John Peterson was born on July 25, 1936, at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, where his mother taught high school English, and his father taught agriculture and industrial arts. In his early years, John's parents made many moves for teaching positions. During WWII his father worked for the War Food Administration. They moved from Rice Lake to LeRoy, Canby, Marshall, and Montevideo before moving to Benson in 1943, the place John calls home (all these towns are in Minnesota). In 1945 John's father managed the G.I Bill Veterans On-the-Farm-Training Program for Swift, County, Minnesota. In those years his parents often managed to have a small acreage and raise Jersey cows. His Grandfather Peterson had a cherry orchard in Door County, Wisconsin, so the Peterson summers were spent helping with the cherry harvest. Then in 1947 John's father became the director of the Farmers Home Administration's Swift County Office. John became an Eagle Scout in 1951.</p> <p>In 1953, after his junior year in high school, John started working summers for the local SCS Work Unit Conservationist and the Swift County SCD. That started his long conservation career. He graduated from Benson High School in 1954 and went to South Dakota State College (University now) where he took civil engineering (BS Civil Engineering, 1959). It was at South Dakota State that he met Blanche Sorensen (BS Home Economics, 1959), and they were married on June 20th, 1959, after graduation. Their first home was in St. Peter, Minnesota, where John was on the SCS Area 2 engineering staff. Blanche taught home economics at St. Peter High School. Earlier she had been a County Extension Home Agent and had accompanied 4-H'ers to the Minnesota State Fair.</p> <p>In the fall of 1959 John entered on active duty with the US Army as a 2LT at Ft. Bliss, TX. While he was overseas Blanche taught home economics at Graceville, Minnesota, until she joined him in Athens, Greece.</p> <p>Once home from active duty, John's SCS career took them to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was a hydraulics engineer on the watershed planning staff. Then it was on to Rochester, MN, in 1965 where he was the area engineer for Area 7 and Blanche taught at a pre-school. In 1968 they moved to Columbus, Ohio, where John was the planning engineer on the river basin staff. In Ohio their sons Michael, Patrick and daughter Kathleen were born. In 1972 they moved to Paoli, Indiana, (living in Mitchell) where John was the watershed planning staff leader and Blanche and a friend started a new pre-school. During this period John received his MPA (Central Michigan University) in 1972 and LLB (JD - LaSalle) in 1973 with the GI Bill. In 1975 they moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where John was the Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources. Daughter Shannon joined the family there.</p> <p>In 1978 SCS headquarters called. The Petersons moved to Burke, Virginia, where they still reside. Daughter Erin made her entrance there.</p>
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Blanche continued her pre-school involvement at Sydenstricker School in Springfield. Initially John was detailed to EPA to assist with Clean Water Act S.208 water quality assessments in the states. In addition to John at EPA HQ, SCS detailed specialists to each of EPA's 10 regions. John returned to SCS HQ in 1980 and was named Director of the Program Integration Division. He spent much of 1981 serving as the acting Associate Deputy Chief for Planning and Evaluation.

In 1982 John became Director of the Watershed Projects Division. In 1986 he became Deputy Chief for Administration. In 1992 he was named Assistant Chief for the Midwest. John retired in April, 1994. When asked what job he enjoyed the most, he said he truly enjoyed each one: "They all made the work fun."

John retired from the Army in 1991 as an infantry COL with 32 years of active duty and active reserve duty after traveling the world. John is a Past Commander of American Legion Post #250 in Mitchell, Indiana (1974).

John has stayed busy in retirement. He spent 10 years as Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition, and while there was the first drafter of Public Law 106-472, the Watershed Rehabilitation Act, which passed on November 9, 2000. (It was the first USDA water resources legislation passed in 22 years.) He has helped the International Erosion Control Association; the Soil & Water Conservation Society (which named him a Fellow in 1993); EnviroCert International, Inc. (which named him a Fellow in 2017); and the Land Improvement Contractors of America. John has been a director of the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District for 15 years and its chairman for the last five. He also has represented Virginia on the NACD Board of Directors for 12 years. He has been the ARCSE National Capital Area Representative for the last 25 years. John has written many articles and papers, mostly on watershed planning and erosion control. He has spoken in the United States and in Canada, Australia, China, and India. John and Blanche have maintained contact with SCS/NRCS friends in most every state and treasure those friendships. They feel privileged to have enjoyed their careers and conservation profession with people they respect. Their seven grandchildren also keep them busy.

Resides	Frank E.	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist Frank E. Resides was born November 27, 1935, and grew up in College Township, Centre County, PA. College Township is a township in Centre County, Pennsylvania, United States. It is part of the State College (PA) Metropolitan Statistical Area. His family owned about 10 acres which was farmed by a neighbor. Frank attended local schools and graduated from State College High School in 1953. While in high school he participated in FFA. His projects were five Duroc-Yorkshire brood sows from which he sold feeder pigs; he also raised a Black Angus steer. Frank was Chancellor of his FFA Chapter during his senior year. After high school, Frank attended Williamsport Technical Institute (now Penn College) for a few months; his intent there was to become an electrician. Frank was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as an Electronics Technician MOS 6621 in Korea, Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. His unit made an amphibious landing on Iwo Jima in 1956 and spent two weeks there. He was discharged at Willow Grove Naval Air Station on October, 6, 1957. Frank was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps after serving from October 1954 to October 1957. After military service he worked on the Myers Dairy farms, east of State College, until entering Penn State in the fall of 1958.</p> <p>Frank began his career with the Soil Conservation Service on June 8, 1959, as a Student Trainee at Somerset County, PA. During the summers of 1960 and 1961 he served again as Student Trainee in Juniata and York Counties. Frank remembers that back then during his third summer, "If you got dropped off at a farm in the morning to assist with construction of a diversion or farm pond and something unforeseen happened (like the bulldozer breaking down about 10am) you were there until the pre-arranged pick-up time which might be late afternoon ."Yes, it was a wonderful world with <i>no</i> cell phones, <i>no</i> e-mail, <i>no</i> voice mail, and <i>no</i> GPS!"</p> <p>Frank and his wife Jane were married on March 17, 1962. He graduated that June with a degree in Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology and was assigned as a Soil Conservationist to Tioga County, PA. Later that year he relocated to the Dauphin County field office and early in 1963 he was assigned as an Economist on the River Basin and Watershed Planning Staff in Harrisburg. In January of 1966 he transferred to College Park, MD, as the Economist on the Watershed Planning Staff. Maryland had a number of upland watersheds in central and western parts of the state and several flood prevention and drainage projects on the Eastern Shore. In September of 1969 Frank was transferred to Amherst, MA, as the Economist on the RB&WS Planning Staff. He was promoted to Staff Leader there in 1972. His primary responsibilities included directing the staff and coordinating planning activities with agencies of the Commonwealth and with other federal agencies.</p>
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In September 1983 he was transferred to the Northeast National Technical Center (NTC) in Chester, PA, as the Water Resources Planning Specialist with responsibilities to review watershed and RC&D plans and to assist the states with their planning activities.

When the NTC closed in December of 1995, Frank accepted a position in the Conservation Operations Division in HQ. There, he spent some of his time on a team developing guidelines for the Conservation Farm Option of the 1996 Farm Bill, working on the publication [Geography of Hope](#), and in answering requests to USDA for various kinds of information.

He retired on December 3, of 1997 with over 41 years of federal service. Frank has enjoyed hunting, fishing and target shooting. He and Jane made an annual fishing trip to Ontario for many years and he hunted in Newfoundland, Colorado, Wyoming, and the Nunavik Territory in northern Quebec.

A beekeeper for 39 years, Frank sold his bees and all his apiary equipment in October 2018. While living in Maryland, Frank and Jane, with limited help from family and friends, built a log cabin in northern Pennsylvania. They felled the pine trees with a two-person cross cut saw, peeled the bark, and Frank notched all the logs with his favorite single bitted axe. The cabin, named *Camp Pioneer*, is still enjoyed by all who go there.

Frank considers himself fortunate to have had a successful and gratifying career; and, he appreciates the good people with whom he worked. He maintains the Northeast NTC Directory with contact information of personnel who were employed there. He has arranged for members of this group to meet for lunch or dinner twice a year since the office closed over 23 years ago.

My thanks to Frank for providing the text (that only required a light edit) and the accompanying photograph. Marc Safley, Chronicler.

Osgood	Barbara	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist Barbara Osgood was born in Nyack, Rockland County, New York. Nyack is a town on the west bank of the Hudson River about 19 miles north of Manhattan. Her roots are deep in the area. In 1899 her grandfather founded a cemetery memorial business in Nyack named Travis Monuments; he also served as mayor of Nyack for a time. Barbara attended local schools, graduating from Nyack High School. After graduation, she attended Cornell University, where she graduated with a B.S. degree in Home Economics. Later she returned to academia at the City University of New York (CUNY). From 1972 to 1976 she was lecturer/instructor at Lehman College of CUNY while pursuing an M.S. degree in Family and Consumer Studies. From 1976 to 1980 she was a Research Associate and Visiting Assistant Professor at Cornell while working toward a doctorate degree. In 1980 she received a Ph.D. in Human Ecology from Cornell; her doctoral work focused on the sociology of built and natural environments, city and regional planning, and social gerontology.</p> <p>Barbara's early involvement with SCS was in the late 1970s during the first Resources Conservation Act analyses being carried out nationwide. She was an analyst under contract with the agency at that time. In 1980 she was hired as the agency's first National Sociologist. During this period she worked with field office staffs on strategies for working with minority and low-income farmers, understanding different ethnic groups, and marketing conservation practices to farmers, ranchers and other land users. Since then she has held positions as Staff Head in the Northeast National Technical Center, State Conservationist for New Jersey (in fact, Barbara was SCS/NRCS's first woman to be a State Conservationist), USDA Liaison to EPA, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Assistant Chief for the Northeast, and Special Assistant to the Chief. Barbara was a member of the Senior Executive Service. She is included in Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in the United States.</p> <p>Barbara retired in 2002 and resides in Northern Virginia. She has continued to be involved in the sociological dimensions of conservation and environmental policy and analysis. As a consultant in environmental sociology, she has developed the Social Impact Assessment sections of environmental impact statements of off-shore drilling, off-shore wind farms, and other energy-related projects. Barbara has also created training materials for conservation professionals. Her activities have included President of the Villages of Fair Lakes Board of Trustees, member and President of the Greens of Fair Lakes Homeowners Board, and former Governing Board member of the United Campus Ministries of Northern Virginia.</p> <p>She has a son, a daughter, and one grandchild. Her hobbies include horticulture, needlepoint, and her rescued, old Labrador retrievers. Her Labrador retriever activities are as a volunteer in the Lab Rescue group within the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac (Lab Rescue of L.R.C.P.). She currently is living with her 20th and 21st old Labs. She is also very active in ARCSE's D.C. Chapter. Barbara has written a book which will be unveiled in early June; it is entitled <u>84 Paws: Life Lessons from Old Labs</u>. She has noted that "My 21 years with NRCS were the best of my professional career. It was a great organization to work for."</p>
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Melven	Bill	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist William J. Melven (Bill) was born October 29th, 1933, at Kennett, MO. Bill grew up in Carrier Mills, IL; Carrier Mills is in the very southern part of the state. He attended schools there and graduated from high school in 1951. He then entered Southern Illinois University (SIU) at Carbondale. There Bill majored in wildlife biology with a minor in agriculture. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from SIU in 1955. During summers while at university he was hired by the Illinois Natural History Survey to sample pond habitats in southern Illinois; this was a challenging, but enjoyable job.</p> <p>Following graduation from the university, Bill entered the U.S. Army and served for two years; this was followed by six years in the Army Reserves. It was during his enlistment that he married his wife of 62 years Shirley Ann. Following his honorable discharge in 1957, Bill held a few part-time jobs until one day he had the opportunity to meet the SCS Area Conservationist located at Champaign. That contact led Bill to apply for a SCS trainee position and he was hired and sent to the Harrisburg (IL) Field Office in 1958. From there he was sent to the Shelbyville (IL), again in a trainee position. When the position of State Biologist was created for Illinois Bill applied and was selected in 1963. He accepted the State Biologist position in West Virginia in 1966. In the early 1970s Bill moved to Nashville, Tennessee as the State Biologist there. He left Tennessee in 1976 to accept the State Biologist job for South Carolina. He retired from SCS in 1986 and remained in the Columbia, SC, area.</p> <p>Following retirement from federal service, Bill was hired by the Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District (SC). In 1994 he became District Manager and served in that capacity until 2018. Even after retirement, Bill has kept active in resource conservation as an associate member of the Lexington SWCD and by helping longtime contacts with pond management concerns. Bill's career in conservation has been a rich and varied one. He has focused on ensuring wildlife resources are a part of planning and implementation across the broad range of landscapes and ecosystems his jobs have covered. When National Environmental Policy Act mandates first were made part of SCS planning and application Bill began providing wildlife inputs that were needed and necessary to assessments and other documents under that law.</p> <p>Bill and Shirley have a son and three grandchildren. His hobbies are fishing and hunting. Bill says that he has enjoyed his career and working with everyone. He says that his philosophy is always to treat others in the way he would want to be treated.</p>
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Sharp	Curtis	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist Curtis Sharp was born October 31, 1929, in Frost, West Virginia. Frost is a community in eastern Pocahontas County about 55 miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs. Curtis' family moved to Greenbrier County in the early 1930s and settled near Renick, WV. He attended schools there and graduated from Renick High School in 1948. He attended Potomac State College from 1949 to 1951 then transferred to West Virginia University WVU) in Morgantown where he graduated in 1953 with a B.S. in Agronomy. During summers from 1948 to 1952 Curtis worked as a Student Trainee in Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.</p> <p>Following graduation from WVU he worked as a Soil Conservationist at Canton, NY, during the summer of 1953. In the fall of 1953 he began graduate studies at The Pennsylvania State University. He earned a M.S. degree in Agronomy in 1955. Curtis served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957. He was stationed in Germany. Upon his discharge in early 1957, he was hired by SCS and assigned to the East Aurora (NY) field office. In May 1957 he met Peggy Bell who became his wife in the fall of that year.</p> <p>From 1957 until 1960 Curtis worked for SCS as a staff person at the Big Flats Plant Material Center. At that time the Center was managed by the State University of New York under a cooperative agreement with SCS. Curtis' job title was Assistant Professor. In 1960 he was named Center Manager there and served in that capacity until 1965 when he was selected to be Plant Materials Specialist for New York. Soon thereafter he was named Plant Materials Specialist for New Jersey at Cape May Courthouse. He held that position until 1970 when he was laterally assigned to California as the state specialist there. He was first located at Pleasanton then later at Lockeford. Curtis worked in California until 1974 when he was promoted to Regional Plant Materials Specialist for the Northeast at Upper Darby, PA. He served that region until 1985 when he was named National Specialist at the SCS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Curtis retired from that position in 1993. During his federal career he received several Certificates of Merit and two USDA Superior Service Awards (1984 and 1993).</p> <p>After retirement Curtis continued to work in support of natural resource conservation programs; he collected plant data under contract to support field office conservation planning software. He and Peggy traveled extensively both domestically and internationally. Together and separately they wrote eight books (five of which are family histories). He also indicated that he "built tons of furniture for children that they don't know what to do with now". Sadly, Peggy passed away earlier this year after 61 years of marriage. Curtis and Peggy have four children, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Curtis writes that his "SCS career was narrowly focused, enjoyable, and I hope productive. I have [been] and continue to be blessed by maintaining reasonably close contact with many Plant Materials people and the program. Even 24 years after retirement, I and several former colleagues spend a week together deeply immersed in what we call 'For the Love of Grass'". (These field exercises in plant identification and site description are evidence of the true dedication of Plant Materials specialists to each other and to the science and art of their profession.)</p>
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Boothby	Charles	2018	<p>Senior Conservationist Charles L. Boothby</p> <p>Senior Conservationist ("Charlie") was born in Livermore, ME, May 5, 1935. Livermore is a town in Androscoggin County, ME, about 30 miles west of the capital, Augusta. Charles was raised on his family's general agriculture farm in Livermore. Charles describes it as a dairy, orchard, potato and forestry farm. He graduated from Leavitt Institute in Turner, ME in 1953. He enrolled in the University of Maine, Orono, in 1953 and graduated with a B.S. degree in agronomy in early 1958. He later enrolled in the University of Maine's graduate school, receiving a Master of Public Administration degree in 1975.</p> <p>Charlie served in the U.S. Army from April 1958 until April 1960, when he was honorably discharged. While serving in the U.S. Army he received a direct commission in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He retired from the Army Reserve in 1989 with the rank of Colonel.</p> <p>Charlie began his conservation career in 1954 as a summer WAE at Auburn, ME. He was a Student Trainee at the same location during the summers from 1955 through 1957. He served as a Soil Conservationist with SCS at Portland, ME, from February 1958 until he entered the U.S. Army. Following his return to civilian status he returned to Portland as a soil conservationist in May 1960 where he served until March 1962. He was then promoted to District Conservationist at Belfast, ME, where he worked until March 1964. He left SCS in 1964 to take the position of Executive Director of the Maine Soil and Water Conservation Commission at Augusta. Charlie served in that job until late 1976. In January 1977 he accepted the position of Executive Secretary of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in Washington, DC. He served at NACD until his retirement in December 1986 as Executive Vice President.</p> <p>From 1974 until 1975 Charlie was President of the Northern New England Chapter of SCSA. In 1975 he was President of the National Association of Soil Conservation Executives. In retirement, he was honored in 2010 as honorary Soil Scientist of the Year by the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists.</p>
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Chapman	Wayne	2018	<p>Senior Conservationist Wayne Chapman was born October 28, 1932, in Dill City, a small, western Oklahoma town in Washita County. Wayne was taken home to the 80-acre cotton farm of his grandfather which was farmed by Wayne's parents. Wayne lived there through the dust storms and drought of the Dirty 30's for his first seven years. He and his older brother picked cotton and earned enough to buy a bicycle for Christmas, only to be told by their father that the money was needed to feed the family. His Dad gave each of them a heifer calf instead. The family moved to northeast Texas in 1939 where his father bought a 400-acre farm. He walked to school until his junior year. He rode a bus to Paris (TX) High School his junior and senior years. Wayne joined the Texas National Guard in his junior year. He played basketball in high school and was captain of the team his senior year. That year he was President of the FFA and earned recognition by the National Honor Society for his academic achievements. He attended Paris Junior College on a basketball scholarship. Wayne was president of the Agricultural Club and was an honors graduate. He then attended what is now Texas A&M at Commerce where he graduated in 1954. Wayne met Patricia Ann Marchbanks during his senior year at Commerce, and they married in September of 1954. He had applied to SCS but had not heard back from them, so he took a job at Irving High School teaching chemistry and science. After this, he and Pat went back to Paris and worked for his father on the farm.</p> <p>The job Wayne had applied for with SCS was offered to him in June 1955. He worked as a soil conservationist at Greenville. He moved to Follett (TX) in 1957 and was promoted to Work Unit Conservationist (WUC) at Spearman (TX) in 1959. He moved to Abilene as WUC in 1964 and then to Vernon as Area Conservationist in 1965. In 1971 Wayne was selected to attend graduate school. He attended the University of Montana where he received a Master of Science degree in Resources Administration. Following school, Wayne and his family went to Auburn, AL, where he was State Resource Conservationist. In 1976 the family moved once again, this time to the Washington, DC, area as Wayne accepted the job of EPA Liaison for two years. After that job, he worked on the Rural Abandoned Mine Program, Great Plains Conservation Program, the Clean Water Program, and Conservation Planning. Wayne was a part of the Legislative Fellowship Program in 1985 and was the liaison between Congress and USDA as the bill was being written. He is proud of having helped to write the Conservation Reserve Program language in the 1985 Farm Bill.</p> <p>Wayne retired in 1989 and moved back to Paris where he is enjoying his retirement years. Retirement has not been without tragedy. Wayne and Patricia lost their son to cancer in 2005. Patricia has survived cancer as have a brother and two sisters. Two brothers-in-law have recently died from cancer. Looking for a way to fight cancer, they have started a St. Baldricks Event to raise money for research. Wayne will have shaved his head 10 times since 2009 by next year. Nationwide, these events raise about \$38 million annually.</p> <p>Wayne writes that he is "...so grateful for such a satisfying 34-year career..." and that "...at 85 years of age I feel blessed to be back where all my brothers and sisters are."</p>
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Root	Gerald	2018	<p>Gerald Root was born October 18, 1934, in Drums (Luzerne County), Pennsylvania (about 50 miles northwest of Allentown). He was raised by his parents on his grandfather's farm. Gerald attended Pennsylvania State University. In need of funds he entered the SCS Student Trainee Program in the summer of 1956 in Schuylkill County Pennsylvania. Gerald graduated from the university in January of 1957. His degrees were in Agriculture Education and General Science. Following graduation he became a full time SCS employee as a soil conservationist. However, in September of 1957 he entered a 6-month obligation in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Upon returning from active duty in March 1958 he was transferred to Clarion County Pennsylvania as District Conservationist.</p> <p>In 1960 Gerald was transferred to Dauphin County Pennsylvania as District Conservationist. The Dauphin County Conservation District had disbanded; however, Gerald was able to bring the District back. In 1965 he accepted a promotion to the Harrisburg State Office as an Assistant State Conservationist. In 1974 he was transferred to Madison, Wisconsin, as Assistant State Conservationist. He served in that position for three years before transferring with promotion to SCS National Headquarters as Deputy Director of the Conservation Division. Gerald retired in October of 1992 in Washington, D.C. after 36 years of Federal service. Over his career he received 12 certificates of Merit, 8 certificates of Appreciation and a Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award.</p> <p>Gerald married Marilyn Swank in August of 1958. They have three daughters.</p> <p>After his retirement Gerald and Marilyn moved from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Lake Anna (Virginia) where they had a second home. There they have enjoyed hunting and fishing and have become involved in many activities. Gerald served as financial chair for his church for 14 years, served as President of their Property Owners Association for 18 years, and maintained a 4 acre common area there. Additionally, Gerald helped the Lake Anna Civic Association become organized. He served as assistant director of a multi-county committee that developed a Special Lake Anna Plan for the 3 counties surrounding the Lake. In that effort he helped organize the Lake Anna Advisory Committee which represented the 3 counties around the Lake, and he worked to ensure that the counties used uniform regulations including soil and water regulations applicable to the Lake. Gerald also served as Treasurer of the Advisory Committee for 5 years. He served as President of the local NARFE chapter for 2 years. For the past 7 years he has served as treasurer for the Louisa County Habitat for Humanity. He also notes that he has spent a lot of time sawing and splitting wood with the United Methodist Men who deliver wood to poor people who need it for heat. Gerald is a grand example of a life full of service to others.</p>
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Holland	Arthur B.	2018	<p>Senior Conservationist Arthur (Art) Holland was born September 3rd, 1932, in Charleston, WV. He was raised in Elkview, WV. His interest in agriculture began at home; his father taught vocational agriculture at the local high school. Art was active in the 4-H program from 5th grade through his university years. He was one of four 4-H'ers selected to attend the National 4-H Camp in 1950. And, he received a scholarship from Esso for his 4-H activities that paid his tuition at West Virginia University. Art enrolled in West Virginia University where he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering. He worked at various jobs during the summers leading up to graduation. Among these was a job with the University of Maryland's Entomology Department, at Fort Belvoir (VA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and as a Student Trainee with SCS at Clarksburg, WVA. He graduated in 1955. That same year he enlisted with the Corps of Engineers as a 2nd Lieutenant. Art served in France at the Chinon Engineer Depot from June 1955 until January 1957. He was honorably discharged in 1957 as a 1st Lieutenant.</p> <p>Art was hired by SCS in 1957 and was assigned to be the federal representative on PL-566 projects in WV. Following that job, Art was made State Construction Engineer then promoted to Assistant State Conservation Engineer for WV. In 1967 he was promoted to State Conservation Engineer for SCS in Alabama. In 1971 he was again promoted to National Planning Engineer and Snow Survey Liaison on the National Engineering Division staff at SCS headquarters. It wasn't long, though, before he became head of the Northeast Planning and Design Unit at Upper Darby, PA. In the late 1970s he accepted the position of Director of the Northeast Technical Service Center at Broomall, PA. That office was subsequently relocated to Chester, PA. Art retired from SCS on April 1, 1994.</p> <p>During and after his career with SCS, Art has been involved with personnel training and working with local residents on conservation concerns. He was an instructor at the Coshocton (OH) and Michigan training centers for construction inspectors. He has been an associate member of the Chester County (PA) and Beaufort County (SC) Conservation Districts. Art also served on the Westtown (PA) Planning Commission.</p> <p>Art has three children, eight grandchildren, and one great granddaughter born in June of this year. He has been married twice. His interests beyond his family include golf, bridge, square dancing, and tossing horseshoes. He lives in Bluffton, SC, and says that it is a wonderful location with very stimulating residents and much to do.</p>
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Terpstra	Earl	2018	<p>Senior Conservationist Earl Terpstra was born May 13, 1933, on his family's small dairy farm near Moline, Michigan, about 10 miles south of Grand Rapids. He graduated from Michigan State University in Agricultural Engineering. He served in the military in Europe with Special Troops stationed in Heidelberg, Germany Headquarters United States Army Europe (USARUR). He is a life member of the VFW. Following his honorable discharge in 1958 he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service.</p> <p>His first job with SCS was as an engineer on the Prairie Creek Watershed in Washington, Indiana. While there he met his future wife Judy; they married in 1959. He was transferred to Rensselaer, Indiana, as Area Engineer and later served as Acting Area Conservationist. Another transfer took him to Indianapolis as a planning engineer on the state-funded planning staff. This was a time when getting a OS 12 in Indiana required multi state experience so Earl took a position in Michigan as a planning engineer on a river basin planning staff. Later positions in Michigan included State Construction Engineer and Head of Design Staff, acting State Conservation Engineer and Planning staff Leader. The latter position involved work on the Great Lakes River Basin Study as leader of a planning team. He then transferred to Minnesota as Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources in charge of the planning staff. He was also assigned to lead the Agricultural Service Center Program for SCS in Minnesota. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz recognized the good work being done with the program there and requested Earl move to Washington to work on this program nationally. In 1976 Earl transferred to the SCS Office Management Division at National Headquarters. He was assigned to a USDA committee to work on the National Agricultural Service Program. Later assignments included work in legislative affairs and selection as a Congressional Fellow. Earl was later assigned to an interagency reorganization team for about 3 years in the Executive Office of the President. After this assignment Earl's work at NHQ included the SCS Legislative Affairs office, supervision of a computer staff at Ft. Collins, Colorado, liaison to NACD, and lecturing for OPM. His last few years were spent in the Conservation Planning Division as Program Leader for the western states.</p> <p>Following retirement April 30, 1994, Earl and Judy bought a small farm in southern Indiana. During his career, Earl had been an avid collector of farm toys. He also collected farm tractors and farm memorabilia. In 2013 he was inducted into the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame. In 2014 he sold 24 of his 36 tractors and most of the old farm machinery at auction. Earl and Judy have one son, Earl Jr. He and Judy continue to enjoy retirement.</p>
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Haas	Joseph W.	2017	<p>Senior Conservationist Joseph (Joe) Haas was born June 21st, 1931 at Danville, Illinois. Danville is the county seat of Vermillion County and is about 35 miles east of Champaign-Urbana. Joe grew up on his family's farm. The farm was a general agricultural enterprise—livestock and grain. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Rossville High School in 1949. He entered the University of Illinois and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1953. Later (1964) he received a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.</p> <p>Joe was drafted into the United States Army in October, 1953 and served until honorably discharged in 1955. He entered on duty with SCS in early 1956 at Edwardsville, Illinois as an agricultural engineer. He grasped an opportunity to enter into the PL-566 watershed program when he moved to Quincy, IL, in July, 1956 to take the job of Design Engineer for the Hadley Creek Pilot Watershed. He later became Project Engineer for that pilot watershed. In 1964 he became State Conservation Engineer at Champaign, IL, following a year of graduate school at Stanford University, resulting from a career education award funded by the Ford Foundation's National Institute of Public Affairs. He remained as the Illinois SCE until 1968 when he moved to Harrisburg, PA, as Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds. In December, 1969 he again moved, this time to Washington, DC, to work as Assistant Director of the Watershed Planning Division. He later was named Director of the Watershed Operations Division and was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief for Watersheds in 1975. In a 1980 reorganization he was named Deputy Chief for Programs, which included responsibility for the management of both land and water resources programs of SCS. Later he was promoted to the position of Associate Chief, the second in command of the agency. It was from this position that Joe retired January 3rd, 1988.</p> <p>Joe is especially honored by two of his many awards. He received the Presidential Rank Award for outstanding service to USDA. This award was presented by President Ronald Reagan. He also was honored by the University of Illinois when the University selected him "Distinguished Alumnus in Engineering." Joe was also instrumental in applying the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines to effect truly interdisciplinary planning to all project activity. As part of doing this, he organized a series of meetings across the country with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and SCS planning personnel to help both agencies understand the need for considering both biologic and soil and water resources in project impacts.</p> <p>Joe married his high school sweetheart, Lavona Green on June 14th, 1953. Their union resulted in one daughter, Cindy Siler, now a software engineer for student loan programs, and two grandchildren, Jessica, a certified and licensed Athletic Trainer, and Timothy, now in his fourth year at West Virginia University, studying for a career in Mechanical</p>
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			Engineering. Unfortunately, Joe's wife Lavona passed away on August 16th, 2014 after 61 years of marriage.
Lile	Harold L.	2017	<p>Senior Conservationist Harold Lile was born October 7, 1933, at Jackson, Tennessee. Jackson is the county seat of Madison County and is about 70 miles east of Memphis. Harold, the youngest of five children, was raised on his family's farm which was about five miles east of Jackson. It was a general agricultural enterprise of the time--cotton, corn, cattle, and a few hogs. Harold attended local schools, and upon graduation from high school entered the University of Tennessee at Martin. He graduated in 1955 with a B.S. degree in General Agriculture.</p> <p>Prior to graduation in 1953, Harold worked as a Student Trainee with SCS in Decatur County, Tennessee. His first assignment with SCS was as a Soil Conservationist in the Wilson County (TN) Work Unit in Lebanon following his graduation. He was there until April 1956 when he was drafted into the US Army. Upon returning home following basic training, he married Jeaneen Edwards who he had met and dated though his college years. He was posted to Japan, and Jeaneen was able to be with him during the two years he was there. Following his Honorable Discharge in 1958, he was sent to the Trousdale County Work Unit in Hartsville, TN, as a Work Unit Conservationist. He was there for less than two years and was then transferred to Covington, TN, as a District Conservationist for Tipton County in 1960. In 1966 he was selected for a Kellogg Fellowship at North Carolina State University where he completed requirements for a M.S. degree in Agriculture with emphasis in economics in 1967. That same year he was promoted to the SCS State Office in Nashville as Assistant State Administrative Officer. In October of 1970 he accepted the position of State Administrative Officer for SCS in North Carolina and relocated to the State Office in Raleigh. Harold worked in that job until his retirement on</p>

		<p>December 31, 1988. During his last year of SCS service he also worked as Assistant to the State Conservationist. It was during this period that he developed evaluation and selection criteria for field positions that better matched personnel to resource needs and classification grade to job complexity.</p> <p>Following retirement Harold and Jeanean remained in North Carolina where he did handyman work in the Durham area. He was also Financial Administrator for Triangle Church of Christ. They were very involved in the activities of their four children and in their church. Sadly, Jeanean passed away in August of 2012; she and Harold had been married for 56 years. In addition to their four children, there are also nine grandchildren. Harold wrote that among his activities is traveling to keep up with all the family. His current activities, apart from those with his family, involve church-related visitations and teaching home Bible studies.</p> <p>Harold says that he really enjoyed every phase of his career in conservation. Whether it was working directly with land owners or with colleagues, he found it all worthwhile and satisfying.</p>
Headden	Billy F.	<p>Senior Conservationist Billy Headden was born September 25, 1933, at Yorkville, TN. Yorkville is a community in Gibson County and is about 50 miles northwest of Jackson in the western portion of Tennessee. Bill grew up on his family's general agriculture farm where he learned to milk cows by hand and to pick cotton. Bill's parents were early adopters of soil conservation on their farm. Bill attended local schools graduating from high school in 1951. Following high school, Bill enrolled in the University of Tennessee-Martin where he majored in General Agriculture. He graduated with a B.Sc. in 1955. During college he worked as an SCS Student Trainee in the summers of 1953 and 1954.</p> <p>After graduation, Bill was hired as a Soil Conservationist at Jackson, TN, and worked there until May 9, 1956, when he entered service in the United States Army. He served until May 8, 1958, when he was honorably discharged. From 1958 until 1959 he worked as Soil Conservationist in the Lexington, TN, work unit. In 1959 he was promoted to Work Unit Conservationist at Lewisburg, TN. He held that position until 1961 when he took the job of District Conservationist at Somerville, TN. He held that position until 1966 when he took the job of District Conservationist for Madison County headquartered at Jackson. Bill was awarded a Kellogg Fellowship for graduate study in 1969. He enrolled at North Carolina State University and received a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1970. Returning to Tennessee, he was Resource Conservationist for 21 West Tennessee counties. In 1971 he accepted a promotion to Area Conservationist for the Knoxville (TN) Area. Bill was there until 1974 when he accepted the position of State Resource Conservationist at the SCS state office in Nashville. Bill retired from that position on January 3, 1987. Bill's SCS career took him from</p>

		<p>the rolling, loessial fields of West Tennessee to the mountain agriculture of East Tennessee. Following retirement from Federal service, Bill worked as a real estate broker, auctioneer, and appraiser until 1998.</p> <p>Bill met his wife, Gayle Finley Headden, while he was working in Lewisburg. They married January 7, 1961. When Bill took the SRC job in 1974 they were able to settle down in the Cornersville, TN, area where, except for a few years in Lewisburg, they have continued to reside. Bill and Gayle have three sons, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He reports that most of their extended family live within a 90-minute drive of their farm outside Cornersville. Bill and Gayle enjoy family get-togethers and traveling. They have visited 47 states and 27 countries on 4 continents. They also enjoy gardening and fishing in their managed farm pond. Bill says that the “fishing is free to friends and neighbors.” Bill believes that life is truly what you make it and that it is important to look ahead no matter what one’s stage of life. Doing good for others, keeping an inquiring mind, and having goals allow one to contribute all along the way.</p>
Mathis	Marion T.	<p>Senior Conservationist Marion T. Mathis was born in Yell County, Arkansas in 1934. Marion and his family moved to South Sebastian County the next year where he grew up on a general purpose farm. He graduated from Hartford High School where he was voted the outstanding senior by the faculty, was president of his FFA, vice-president of his class, and was an all-state basketball player. After graduation, Marion attended Arkansas Tech University for two years earning an Associate of Science degree in Agriculture. He then attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where he received a BS in Agriculture and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. After completing his active duty, he married his college sweetheart Treva Martin. He returned to the U of A and earned a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Education. After graduation, Marion spent five years in agricultural chemical sales in Arizona and the Southwest.</p> <p>He started his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1965 as an economist on the Watershed Planning Party in Little Rock. In 1966 he transferred to the field serving as conservationist in Danville and Russellville before being promoted to District Conservationist in Sheridan in 1970. He served as DC in Clinton AR from 1974 to 1984, as DC in McGhee from 1984 to 1987, and as DC in Clarksville from 1987 to 1990. He was Area Resource Conservationist in Hope from 1990 retiring in April of 1994. Marion and Treva then moved back to the Mansfield-Hartford area where they grew up.</p> <p>After a year and a half of retirement, Marion decided he needed to do something to keep him busy. He signed on to the City of Mansfield as Economic Development Coordinator for one year in September of 1995. He served as President of the Mansfield Economic Development</p>

Corporation (a non-profit), and as Executive Secretary of the Sebascott Economic Development Council. In that capacity, he wrote a number of grants for the improvement of the area. These included a wastewater treatment facility that now serves three communities, a senior citizens facility, and many grants for improvement of city streets and the downtown area. Marion was presented the Rural Community Assistance National Action Award from the US Forest Service in 2003. The one-year contract with the city turned into eighteen years as he retired (again) in 2013.

Marion and Treva have been married 58 years and have two children. Son Stanley was an engineer with NRCS (now retired). His wife Katie is a retired elementary teacher. They have two children, Sarah and Joe. Marion and Treva's daughter, Cynthia, is an occupational and certified hand therapist. Marion and Treva enjoy traveling and have visited all 50 states and about 20 foreign countries. They have represented Mansfield, Arkansas, in meetings of the Mansfields Sister Cities of the World Organization in Mansfield England in 2000; in Mansfield, Massachusetts, in 2004; and, in Mansfield, Ohio, in 2008.

Marion loves the outdoors. He was a member and hiked with the Trail Blazers Hiking Club of Fort Smith for several years and was a volunteer on maintenance for the Ozark Highland Trail. He also has canoed and fished most of the rivers, streams and lakes in Arkansas. Treva and Marion are members of the Fort Smith Rose Society. Treva has won numerous awards, Marion served two terms as president of the society, and they were presented the Bronze Honor Medal of the American Rose Society in 2005. Marion is a member of the Arkansas River Valley Antique Tractor Club and has restored a 1955 Model 600 Ford tractor which he shows and drives in parades. Marion and Treva celebrate their February birthdays each year in Galveston, TX. They have been members of Gideons International for 32 years and are members of the First Baptist Church in Mansfield where they have served in various capacities. They live five miles east of Mansfield, AR on a 300-acre cattle ranch their son shares with them.

Mashburn	Ralph A.	2017	<p>Senior Conservationist Ralph Mashburn was born March 24, 1934, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He grew up on his family's farm where they raised cotton, soybeans, and some cattle. He graduated from Lonoke High School in 1951 and later entered the University of Arkansas. At the university he studied agricultural engineering; Ralph was an SCS Student Trainee in 1955 and 1956. In 1956 Ralph married Nancy Brickell. He completed his university studies in 1957 graduating with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering. He went into active service through the U.S. Army ROTC in 1957 and 1958 and was honorably discharged from the Army Reserves in 1965 with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.</p> <p>His first position with SCS was as agricultural engineer in Lonoke and Marianna, AR, field offices from 1957 to 1963. From 1963 to 1965 Ralph served as civil engineer for a watershed project and was based at Morrilton, AR. From 1965 to 1970 he worked as a civil engineer doing river basin and watershed planning work at East Aurora and Syracuse, NY. In 1970 he was promoted to Planning Staff Leader for River Basins and Watersheds at Saint Paul, MN, where he worked until 1973. He then took the job of River Basins Specialist at National Headquarters and worked there until 1976 when he moved to Portland, Oregon, as Water Resources Specialist and Programs Staff Leader at the West National Technical Center. While in Oregon Ralph pursued graduate studies in public administration at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Ralph led that regional work until 1986 when he accepted the position of Assistant State Conservationist at Little Rock, AR. Ralph retired from SCS in 1990, but returned as a re-employed annuitant and contractor. In this capacity he provided management analysis and worked in the National Instructor Cadre.</p> <p>Following retirement from SCS, Ralph has been busy with a number of activities. He manages the rental of his family farm (cotton rice, and fish). From 2000 until 2011 he was an Adjunct Instructor for John Brown University where he taught "Organizational Management: Principles of Leadership and Business Ethics." From 1990 through 2010 he was a private management consultant. As a consultant he taught topics of meeting facilitation, coping with conflict, and teambuilding. He authored his teaching materials.</p> <p>Ralph and Nancy have two sons and one daughter. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They have been and continue to be active in their church. Together they have led evangelistic seminars and retreats in Virginia, New York, Minnesota, and Oregon. Ralph was Minister to Adults in his church in Oregon and currently is a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Lonoke (AR) Baptist Church. He and Nancy also are active in The Gideons International. Ralph has been on the Executive board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 2015.</p> <p>Ralph enjoys fishing, traveling, family gatherings, and being with friends. He writes that he considers his years with SCS a blessing. He writes,</p>
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			<p>“Our mission was noble and helping each other was common. The SCS provided me the unique opportunity to earn a decent living, see the whole USA and meet and help thousands of farmers and ranchers. I am forever grateful that the Lord led me to the career, the locations and the lifelong SCS friends I have.”</p>
Eubanks	Johnny M.	2016	<p>Senior Conservationist Johnny Eubanks was born May 9th, 1932, in Tate, GA. Tate is in Pickens County, GA, about 56 miles north of Atlanta. Johnny's father worked for Georgia Marble and inspected every piece that was cut for the east wing of the United States Capitol. Although not directly involved in farming, Johnny was interested in agriculture from a young age. He graduated from Tate High School in 1948 and entered Berry College in Rome, GA, in the fall of that year. He graduated in May of 1953 with a B.S. degree in agriculture (animal husbandry major and agronomy minor).</p> <p>While at Berry College, he met his future wife, Frances Harris, who was majoring in home economics. They married January 20th, 1954. After college and before his call to service, he did agriculture-related work. Johnny was drafted into the U.S. Army in May 1954. He spent 14 months stationed at the Yokohama (Japan) Engineering Depot. He was honorably discharged in 1956 and returned to Georgia.</p> <p>After his discharge from the Army, Johnny was hired by SCS in 1957 and sent to Madison, GA. He worked there for two years and then was sent to Thomasville, GA, as a GS-7 District Conservationist in 1960. He retired April 1st, 1994, as a GS-11 District Conservationist at Thomasville. During the last 12 years of his SCS career, he was also District Conservationist for Grady County, GA (an adjoining county). During his years at Thomasville, Frances was a home demonstration agent and also taught in the Thomasville school system.</p> <p>Following his retirement, he and Frances moved to Lake Murray, west of Columbia in 1996. They have three sons, five grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren. The eldest of their three sons lives nearby with his</p>

			<p>family; Johnny and Frances enjoy being near them. They are involved in their local church and have pursued several hobbies and activities. Johnny reports that he enjoys vegetable gardening, deer hunting, and fishing. In January of this year Johnny and Frances celebrated 62 years of marriage. He writes that though they are not in the best of health "...we do not give up."</p>
Brownfield	Shelby H.	2016	<p>Senior Conservationist Shelby Brownfield was born June 12, 1931, in Ava, Illinois. He was raised on his family's dairy farm. After high school he enrolled in the University of Illinois. While in college he worked at several jobs including home construction and repair, a lab technician with the Agricultural Research Service. Shelby graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a major in Agronomy (crops and soils).</p> <p>After graduation he continued working for ARS at its Joliet Experiment Station as lab technician. He also worked for Swift & Co. as a field representative selling farm chemicals and fertilizers and for Sears, Roebuck & Co. as a garden store manager.</p> <p>Shelby began his career with SCS in 1956 in Greencastle, IN, as a field soil scientist. In 1957 he was relocated to Spencer, IN, where he worked as field soil scientist until 1960. In 1960, he was promoted to Area Soil Scientist and survey party leader at Franklin, IN. He remained there until 1963 when he took the same job at Shelbyville, IN. In 1967 he moved to North Vernon, IN; in 1972 he relocated to Kendallville, IN. He was in Kendallville just a short time, for he was selected in that year to be soil correlator located at Bozeman, MT. He remained in Bozeman until 1977 when he was promoted to State Soil Scientist for Idaho at Boise. There he remained until 1986. During his tenure in Idaho he participated in a temporary assignment for US-AID to Algeria in 1984. The team of which he was a member worked to select and evaluate sites for agricultural research and plant materials projects.</p> <p>Shelby retired from SCS in mid-1986. Following retirement he worked as Senior Soil Scientist under contract to the Idaho Division of Environment from 1986 to 1988. He, along with other SCS retirees, founded Associated Earth Scientists in 1987. His company performed various work under contract including evaluation of drain field sites for sewage treatment and disposal, evaluation of landfill sites, evaluation of drainage and soil conditions for proposed subdivisions, and other related urban soil consultation. He also trained Idaho District Health Officers to identify soil problems.</p>

			<p>Shelby reports that he continues to be involved with everything from do-it-yourself projects ("...mainly remodeling and repair of my homes including a log home...") to family gatherings and church activities. In 2006 and 2007 he spent three weeks of each year as a volunteer with Marion Medical Mission in Malawi, Africa. On those trips, Shelby helped install shallow wells in rural villages. He has also visited Ethiopia in 1992, 2004, and 2007 where he assisted his agricultural engineer and missionary son David Brownfield. During those trips he assisted on water development projects and repair of water systems in the highlands of northwestern Ethiopia.</p>
Bell	Jimmy R.	2016	<p>Senior Conservationist Jimmy R. Bell was born October 18, 1932, on his grandparents' ranch in Mitchell County, Texas. He was the first of five children. His father was employed by Mobil Oil Co. for many years. Jim graduated from Colorado City, Texas High School in 1951. After high school, he enrolled at Texas A&M University, where he received a BS degree in Range and Forestry in 1955.</p> <p>After graduation he reported to duty for the Soil Conservation Service in Big Springs, Texas. After attending the SCS training in Big Springs, in July of 1955 he entered the US Army to fulfil his two years required military service. He was honorably discharged in May, 1957, after serving with the 3RD Armored Division in Germany. Jim and Iris were married August 8, 1953.</p> <p>Upon completion of his military service, Jim returned to work for the SCS in May, 1957, in Brady, Texas, as a Range Management Assistant. He transferred to Brownwood, Texas in November, 1958, as a Range Conservationist. In April, 1962, Jim was transferred to Worland, Wyoming as an Area Range Conservationist. In 1974, he was transferred to Sheridan, Wyoming, as Area Range Conservationist. He served as Range Conservationist for three areas (northern half of Wyoming). In 1975 he was selected to be the RC&D coordinator for the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. Again he was relocated in Worland.</p> <p>In August, 1977, Jim was asked to assist the US Dept. of Interior, BLM with the development and implementation of a new natural resources inventory system. This detail ended in October 1979. In 1977 Jim received the Wyoming Society of Range Management "Man of the Year" Award. In April 1980, Jim was selected for a special assignment at NASA, Johnson Space Center Houston, Texas. This assignment was as senior scientist to work in a new program named the Agricultural and Resources</p>

Surveys Through Aerospace Remote Sensing (AgRiSTARS). Jim served as the research and development leader for the Renewable Resources Inventory Project (RRI), which was a part of the US Forest's Nation Wide Forestry Applications Program (NFAP). Jim retired July 13, 1985, at the end of this five year program.

While working with the RRI, he was asked to design and construct several special field use light tables to accommodate the use of large reels of film from U2 flights to monitor the gypsy moth damage to trees in the north eastern states. The light tables were about four inches in depth but large enough to handle two rolls of 9-inch-wide film lying side by side. It was easy to transport a large number of light tables in a van. Jim received a Certificate Appreciation from Max Peterson, Chief Forest Service.

After retirement, Jim and his wife stayed in Houston until 1994 when Iris retired from Smith Barney Shearson as Assistant Vice President. After her retirement, Jim and Iris returned to Worland, Wyoming. They built a log cabin on Canyon Creek in the Big Horn Mountains, on 840 acres of private land that adjoins the Big Horn National Forest to the north. There are moose, elk, deer, antelope and an occasional bear on the property. He still owns a small irrigated farm near Worland, where he raised quarter horses until he got too old to break and train the new ones. Jim's health is still good. He continues to hike and fish the streams along the divide of the Big Horn Mountains.

The Bells have raised four children, have seven grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. They love to celebrate the many birthdays that come along. They are also very active in their church activities. Jim has served as a deacon in most of the churches he has attended.

He has been an avid hunter and fisherman, and he has guided big game hunters for years. In 2014 Jim wrote a 380 page book, We Rode the High Country, about his life, career and recreation. He has presented many papers and contributed to many publications relating to remote sensing, as well as cover photos for Society of Range Management, and Soil Conservation Magazine (February 1967).

Jim has thoroughly enjoyed the 30 years he spent with the SCS in Natural Resources Management.

Minnick	Edwin L.	2016	<p>Senior Conservationist Ed L. Minnick was born in Folsom, Pennsylvania. Folsom is in Delaware County, about 15 miles south of Philadelphia. He attended elementary school in Ridley Park, PA, and graduated in 1949 from Saint James Catholic High School for Boys in Chester, PA. Following high school he began attending La Salle University in Philadelphia; however, the Korean War draft was imminent, so Ed enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served in the field artillery and arrived in Korea about six months prior to the armistice (signed at Panmunjom on July 27th, 1953). Ed was honorably discharged in 1954.</p> <p>He started working for SCS in 1956 as a WAE at the Georgetown, DE, field office. He was hired full time in June of 1957 as a Civil Engineering Technician serving field and project offices in Maryland and Delaware. He met his wife, Berta, in the cafeteria at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. They married February 14th, 1959. Ed served as Civil Engineering Technician until March 1968 when he accepted the job of Design Engineer for offices and projects in Maryland and Delaware with office in College Park. In June 1970 he graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. In November of that year he was promoted to Civil Engineer at Storrs, CT, with responsibility for field and project offices in both CT and RI. In December 1979 he was made Assistant State Conservation Engineer for Ohio and moved to Columbus. He held that position until August 1982 when he accepted the job of Assistant State Conservation Engineer and Construction Engineer at Durham, NH. Ed was promoted to State Conservation Engineer for Michigan in May 1985 and served in that capacity until his retirement in December 1988. Throughout his career he designed conservation structures, developed tools to improve the effectiveness of conservation measures, and instructed and mentored other conservationists in analysis and development of appropriately designed conservation measures and systems. Ed passed the Licensed Professional Engineer exam while in Connecticut and is currently licensed in five states (Connecticut, Ohio, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Maine).</p> <p>After retirement Ed worked as Project Engineer for Civil Consultants, South Berwick, ME, from January 1989 to March 1990. From May 1990 until May 1992 he was Project Engineer for Greiner Engineering Co. of Timonium (MD) and Rocky Hill (CT). In May 1992 he established Minnick Engineering located in Berwick, ME. Its primary client was Rockingham County Conservation District in Brentwood, NH. He remained active as a consulting Professional Engineer until he and Berta moved to California in 2014.</p> <p>Ed and Berta have two children and five grandchildren. He enjoys photography and has instructed classes in use of HydroCAD stormwater modeling software. He was a volunteer with his local community food pantries in Maine and New Hampshire. Since moving to California he has taken up lawn bowling. He says that Berta has also become a library volunteer and a pickle ball player. Ed says that he has thoroughly enjoyed</p>
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			<p>his chosen career and the tremendous variety of opportunities it afforded him.</p>
McLoda	Niles	2015	<p>Senior Conservationist Niles A. McLoda was born October 5th, 1929 in Elyria, Ohio. Elyria is about 30 miles southeast of Cleveland. Niles was the first of six children. His father worked at a shipyard in Lorain, OH, on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Niles' family lived on his grandfather's farm near Elyria. He graduated from high school in 1947 at Amherst (OH) High School. After high school he enrolled at The Ohio State University. He left OSU and worked on the farm. In June 1954 he joined the US Army; in 1955 he joined the 11th Airborne and was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. He served until March 1956 when he was honorably discharged.</p> <p>Upon completion of his military service Niles went back to OSU where he received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Equipment Science in 1958. He completed one quarter of graduate studies that completed his eligibility as a Soil Scientist for SCS. His first location as a Soil Scientist was at Eaton, OH, as part of a progressive survey party. He was there until March 1961 when he took the job of Soil Scientist at Coshocton, OH. He left that position in June 1963 to take the job of Area Soil Scientist at Hillsboro, OH, where he worked until June of 1969. He then went to Columbus where he was Area Soil Scientist and Survey Party Leader. In April of 1977 he transferred to Newark, OH, in the equivalent job. He was there for only seven months. In November of 1977 he was selected Assistant State Soil Scientist for SCS in Richmond, VA. He held that position until March 1985 when he became State Soil Scientist for Virginia. He retired from that position June 30, 1988.</p> <p>While working in Ohio, Niles invented, designed, and constructed a soil sampling machine that could be mounted on a motorcycle sidecar. This allowed soil surveyors to reach locations inaccessible by standard truck-mounted coring machines at the time. He also designed and constructed a rectangular soil sampler which facilitated extraction of making of soil monoliths.</p>

			<p>After retirement, Niles and his family remained in the Richmond area. For 12 years until 2000 he worked at the Amelia Wildlife Management Area, and from September 1989 until June of 2000 he did soil mapping as a consultant. He has been a volunteer with the Amelia Volunteer Fire Department since 1989. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 1995 and 1998. In 2009 he was named a Life Member of the Department.</p> <p>Niles' interests beyond soil science have been both active and varied. He earned a private pilot license in 1949. He was very involved in motorcycling both touring with his wife and competitively in racing. He won the Jack Pine National Sidecar Enduro Championship (500 mile race) in 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, and 1966. He says that he has owned 27 motorcycles during his cycling career (17 of which were Harley-Davidson's). He and his wife have ridden in all states of the US, except Alaska. Other activities have included big game hunting in Wyoming and Nebraska, camping, and square dancing. Square dancing has played an important part in Niles' life beyond a social pastime. He met Jane Houghton at a square dance in Elyria and they later married on April 14, 1954. Jane and he are the parents of two daughters and two granddaughters.</p> <p>When asked what guidance he would have for persons today, he said "know what you know."</p>
Newman	Allen Lee	2015	<p>Allen Lee was born Feb. 12, 1930 in Duncan, OK, the first of nine children born to Wesley and Pearl Newman. He was raised on the family farm where cattle, hogs, poultry, corn, cotton, small grains and hay were produced. He attended several small elementary schools before graduating from Velma-Alma High School in 1948. Allen graduated from Cameron Junior College in Lawton with an Associate Degree in Agriculture. He then graduated from Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) in 1953 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture, with a major in agronomy and minors in soils and botany.</p> <p>He served in the U.S. Army (Artillery) for two years and in the Reserves (Engineering Construction) for four years, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant in 1957.</p> <p>Allen began working with SCS in the fall of 1955 in Littlefield, TX, as a Soil Scientist. In a few months he became party leader of Lamb County Soil Survey. He was Area Soil Scientist for the Lubbock Area from 1959 to 1961 and Area Soil Scientist for the Uvalde Area from 1961 to 1963. He also authored the soil surveys of Lamb, Cochran, and Kinney Counties.</p> <p>In 1963 he was promoted to Field Specialist Soils for the eastern fourth of Texas with headquarters in Nacogdoches. In 1967 he was transferred to Temple, TX and became Assistant State Soil Scientist in 1970. He retired from SCS on January 2, 1987.</p> <p>Allen received numerous awards during his career, including five Certificates of Merit signed by four different state conservationists and one signed by Mel Davis, SCS Administrator.</p>

			<p>After retiring, he contracted with municipalities and several lignite mines to do soil surveying and sampling. He also contracted with NRCS to prepare soil surveys for digitizing. He completed 33 digitizing contracts and 14 technical edits of soil survey manuscripts. He retired from contracting in November 2003.</p> <p>In 1951 Allen married Maxine Pierce. They have two sons, seven grandsons, six great-grandsons, and two great-granddaughters. Allen and Maxine are active in church work. He has taught Sunday School for more than 50 years and has been a deacon for more than 45 years.</p> <p>Since 2005 one of his hobbies is preparing a six-page, quarterly, family newsletter that goes to about 120 households. He has also been a purple martin landlord for more than 25 years, usually fledgling more than 100 martins yearly.</p> <p>Allen is especially fond of having had a part in training more than a dozen young scientists, several going on to be Regional Soil Scientists, State Soil Scientists, State Conservationists, and to other places of service. He also wrote a book, published in-house, titled Vertisols in Texas. It is basically a handbook for use in Texas. He is also proud of having written a draft of the Aridic Subgroups that later became a part of Soil Taxonomy. He likes to say, "I had the privilege of working alongside outstanding men and women in most disciplines in SCS".</p>
Potter	Harry E.	2015	<p>Senior Conservationist Harry Potter was born September 2, 1927, in Caribou, Maine. His family moved to Sidney, ME, where he grew up on his family's farm. It was a small dairy and egg production farm. Harry attended elementary school in Sidney and graduated from high school in Oakland, ME. Following graduation from high school, Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served in the Pacific area on Okinawa where he handled radio repair on the base. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was discharged in 1949 from the U.S. Air Force. He returned home and worked in various farm jobs until he enrolled in the University of Maine in the fall of 1950. While at the university, he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and was active in Ag Club activities (including the Ag Fair). Harry graduated in 1954 with a B.Sc. degree in Agricultural Engineering.</p> <p>Harry's first work with SCS was during the summer of 1951 in Steuben County, NY. He returned to New York State for the summers of 1952 and 1953 in Cayuga and Wayne counties.</p> <p>Following his graduation, he was assigned to Genesee County, NY, as a full-time employee at the Batavia Field Office as a Soil Conservationist. In January, 1956 he was transferred to Rensselaer County and located at Berlin, NY. Berlin was a field office for the Little Hoosic Watershed (one of four pilot small watershed projects in the state at that time). His work there included streambank cribbing and construction of debris dams to slow erosive stream currents and to retain sediment. He married his</p>

wife, Sharon, on September 8, 1956; they had met while Harry worked in Batavia.

In 1958 Harry was promoted to District Conservationist at Troy, New York. Troy has close ties to the nearby cities of Albany and Schenectady in a region popularly called the Capital District. Harry notes that general agriculture was typical and that the area was becoming more and more urbanized while he was working there. In 1967 he accepted the job of District Conservationist for Jefferson County located at Watertown, NY. The county is in the Saint Lawrence River Valley and presented Harry with new challenges. He notes that surface drains and land smoothing were being used on the clayey soils; he visited similar landscapes in Ohio during this time to learn conservation practices being employed there. Harry retired on September 1st, 1982, at Watertown and has remained there since.

When Harry and Sharon moved to the job at Watertown in 1967, they bought a farmstead and 45 acres of land. He reports that it was "...great for vegetable and flower gardens and [had] adequate grass for pasture where we hobbied with a family flock of Hampshire sheep." There is also a hill that is great for sledding (which he still uses every winter). In retirement, Harry has served on his town's planning board in several capacities, including two extended terms as its chairperson. In 1996 he was appointed as a Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor. He served for 16 years as its chairperson until he retired in 2013.

Harry and Sharon have a daughter and two sons. They have six grandchildren and, as of the date he sent his information, were expecting their first great-grandchild "...any day now". They supported their children through school, 4-H, and church. Their children have moved away as they married and gained employment. Harry and Sharon travel to Nebraska, Illinois, Colorado, New Hampshire and Maine almost every year. He reports that "...to date we have attended 14 graduations for our grandchildren, beginning with 8th grade, and one wedding. Hopefully we will be able to make the last college graduation in 2016!"

In addition to his travels, Harry enjoys woodworking and bird watching. He remains active at his church where he has served as a laity member to Annual Conference for many years.

Schmude	Keith O.	2014	<p>Senior Conservationist Keith O. Schmude, Ph.D., was born in his family's home on their dairy farm in Poygan Township, Wisconsin. Keith grew up on that farm and attended local schools. He graduated from Omro High School (Omro, Wisconsin) in 1949. His father was an early cooperator with the local conservation district. Keith has said that it was his experience helping George Framerger (the District Conservationist) lay out terraces and seeing development of the soils map for the farm that convinced him that a career in soil science and conservation was for him. Keith planned to enroll in the local state college in Oshkosh after high school and worked to earn tuition money. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served in Korea until separated from active duty in 1953 and was honorably discharged in 1959 after serving in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years. While in Korea, he served as a Combat Infantry Squad Leader for the 45th Infantry Division. For his service he received two Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge with two overseas bars, a United Nations Service Medal, and a commendation ribbon with metal pendant for Meritorious Service. Keith was anxious to start college. He arrived home after his discharge on a Friday and was sitting in class at Wisconsin State College the following Monday. It was during his studies at Wisconsin State College that he met Barbara Wilson who became his wife before he transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete his undergraduate work. They married June 18, 1955. Keith graduated with Senior High Honors with a B.S. in Agriculture. He completed a Master of Science program at the same school in 1959 in the discipline of Soil Genesis and Classification. Keith's career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began in Wisconsin in 1958. From 1958 to 1968 he rose from GS-5 to GS-11 Soil Scientist. He was a soil survey party leader and was author of two county soil survey publications. In 1968 he accepted a promotion to Assistant State Soil Scientist for West Virginia. He served in that job until 1970 when he was selected State Soil Scientist in-place. Keith worked there until 1976 when he was promoted to the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Division within SCS Headquarters. He entered on duty on July 4, 1976. In 1978 Keith was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from West Virginia University. His dissertation involved five disciplines (soil science, civil engineering, agronomy, economics, and geology) and the use/utility of soil survey information in land use planning. Keith served in the I&M Division until he retired in 1988. Keith has received many awards during his career. In 2004 he was honored by his high school by being added to the Omro High School Wall of Fame. Keith and Barbara have seven children, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They continue to live in the home in Fairfax County, Virginia, they moved into in 1976. Next year they will celebrate 60 years of marriage and are making plans for that celebration. Keith and Barbara enjoy traveling to visit their children as well as gardening and wood crafting.</p>
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Henry	Donald S. ("Don")	2014	<p>Senior Conservationist Donald S. Henry ("Don") was born at Benham, Kentucky; Benham is located in Kentucky's southeastern portion. He spent his earliest years in Benham and moved with his family to Pulaski County, KY, when his father retired from coal mining and bought a farm near Science Hill. Don completed high school at Science Hill. He spent a year at Berea College then decided to try his hand at college football. He left Berea College and enrolled at the University of Illinois. He was there for two semesters when he received his draft notice for the Korean War. He joined the US Navy in 1951 and served on the Fletcher Class destroyer USS The Sullivans from 1951 to 1955 seeing duty in the war zone.</p> <p>Following his honorable discharge in 1955 he resumed his college studies by enrolling in the University of Kentucky, where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy.</p> <p>Don began his career with SCS in the spring of 1958 when he was hired as a soil scientist mapping soils in several Kentucky counties. He mapped soils for about 8 years. He then became District Conservationist for both Powell and Wolfe counties. Three years later he accepted the position of District Conservationist for Clark County on the eastern side of the Bluegrass Region.</p> <p>In 1971 Don was named Manager of the Plant Materials Center at Quicksand, Kentucky. He worked there until 1977 when he was selected to the position of Plant Materials Specialist for the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and a portion of West Virginia. His office was at the SCS State Office in Lexington. He served in that capacity until his retirement in September 1989.</p> <p>During his career with the Plant Materials Program he oversaw release of several cultivars. These include a cold-tolerant bermudagrass ("Quickstand") for athletic fields and other high-traffic areas; a low-growing sericea lespedeza ("Appalow") for hillside pasturage and critical area stabilization; a multi-stem, dwarf willow for stream channel erosion management ("Bankers"); and, a germplasm-improved switchgrass (KY1625).</p> <p>Following his retirement in September 1989 he volunteered and then worked for the Clark County (KY) Conservation District for 15 years. He also worked occasionally as a substitute teacher at the local high school in Winchester, KY.</p> <p>Don's first wife, Doris, passed away in May of 2010; they had been married 57 years. Don has two sons and one daughter, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He is now married to Marjorie Whitley. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their families. Don's hobbies have included wood working and the occasional golf and fishing outing. He and his wife enjoy participating in church activities.</p>
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Don reports that he truly enjoyed his career in conservation that spanned over 50 years. He also cherishes his "...time spent with the wonderful people of SCS and NRCS."

Honeyfield	Harold R.	2014	<p>Senior Conservationist Harold R. Honeyfield was born December 28, 1930, on his Grandfather's homestead, near Raton, New Mexico. He was raised on that small farm where teams of horses were the source of power for all farming, and a few dairy cows provided the money for groceries. He graduated Raton High School, then enlisted in the US Navy, and served 3 ½ years. He entered the US Naval Academy and attended for two years, after which he transferred to New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now New Mexico State University) where he received a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1956. He then enrolled at Purdue University majoring in soil mechanics and hydraulics; there he conducted a model study of the hydraulic jump in pipe for his thesis. He received an MS degree in January 1958.</p> <p>His career with Soil Conservation Service started in the summer of 1955 when he was an engineering aide at Bernalillo, NM, doing surveying and soil testing for the construction of the dam known as Pilot Site #1. This was just prior to the program known as PL 566. During the summer of 1956 he was assigned as a Field Office engineer at Las Vegas, New Mexico. In January 1958 he became Head of the Design Section (aka: State Design Engineer) at the SCS State Office at Albuquerque. Harold was the first State Design Engineer in New Mexico.</p> <p>During his time in New Mexico, he was the Charter President of the New Mexico Chapter of ASAE, and became a member of the ASAE sub-committee for Design. When took the job of State Design Engineer in 1958 Engineering Memo #3 contained the design criteria for dams and was 3 pages long. Over the next 18 years of his career criteria for dam design were revised many times and increased in complexity. Harold was noted for finding solutions for problems by using some US Bureau of Reclamation structures, such as: impact basins for principal spilling discharge, and baffle chutes for grade stabilization. During the same period of time, contract construction specifications received major changes. In New Mexico, 74 flood control dams were designed by Harold and reviewed by either the Ft. Worth, TX Engineering and Watershed Protection Unit, the Portland NTC, or the Ft. Worth, Texas NTC. He made acrylic models of hydraulic structures for teaching aids.</p> <p>In 1975 Harold was assigned to the first SCS technical team to go to the Helmand Valley Drainage project in Afghanistan; there he taught Afghan engineers drainage procedures to reclaim saline soils. In 1977 he returned to the United States and was assigned to the Portland NTC. While there he evaluated performance of a hydraulic model of a side channel chute for its use as an emergency spillway; he also was on temporary detail to SCS in California for flood restoration work. In November 1978 he became the Assistant State Engineer for California, served as Acting State Engineer for the 1978-1980 EWP flood restoration project. Harold retired in September 1989.</p>
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Nelson	Harlan C.	2014	<p>Senior Conservationist Harlan C. Nelson was born in Frederic, WI. Harlan grew up on his family's 120-acre farm near Luck, WI (about 70 miles northeast of Saint Paul, MN). The farm was a diversified enterprise with a small herd of cows, pigs, and some chickens. His grandfather built the barn and they farmed with horses in his youth. He graduated from high school in 1946 and worked on his home farm until he entered military service in the U.S. Marine Corps in September of that same year. He was stationed in California at the Naval Supply Center (Oakland) until he was discharged in September, 1948.</p> <p>Upon return to civilian life he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and graduated in 1952 with a B.Sc. degree in both Agriculture and Science. While in college on the G.I. Bill, he was on the school's baseball team (3rd base and shortstop positions) for all four years. He was a member of the basketball team for his first two years in college, but realized that laboratory classes conflicted with basketball practice and chose academics. He had intended to go into a career of teaching and coaching, but his basketball coach advised him to pursue agriculture, as there were many more jobs in that field than in teaching</p>

at that time. Harlan took his advice to heart and came on board SCS in the summer of 1952 as a Student Trainee at Balsam Lake, WI.

After graduation he was assigned as a Soil Conservationist at Stratford, WI (a two-person field office). He was there in that position from December, 1952 until March, 1954 when he was promoted in place to District Conservationist. He served there until 1956 when he discontinued his Federal service to take a position with Northrup King in Sparta, WI. He is quoted as having said that he was "tired of living out of a suitcase" and in 1957 he was reinstated with SCS in Eau Claire County as District Conservationist, where he served for nine years. In 1966 he accepted the District Conservationist position for Chippewa County. He held that position until his retirement in late April, 1983. Harlan was recognized by community leaders and farmers alike, wherever he worked, for his effectiveness in natural resource and soil conservation.

Over the years since his retirement from SCS, Harlan has been active in agriculture, with his hobbies, and with his family. He worked for a while as a wildlife damage inspector for Eau Claire County. He worked for over five years in Trempealeau County, WI, where he contacted farmers about their compliance with Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program. He continued to enjoy his avocation of woodworking and furniture building.

This year Harlan and his wife Ethel have been married 56 years. They have one son and two daughters and three grandchildren. Harlan has always believed that conservation is a team effort. Local, state, and federal agencies must work cooperatively, each doing its job, to make conservation a success.

Spitz	James H. (Jim)	2014	<p>Senior Conservationist James H. (Jim) Spitz was born in Rochester, New York. Jim grew up on a “hill farm” on the west side of Keuka Lake in the Finger Lakes region of New York. He attended high school in Hammondsport, NY, during which time he participated in baseball, basketball, and track and field sports. His hobbies included racing a Star Class sailboat on local lakes, in Canada, and other Eastern waters. Upon graduation from high school, he enrolled in Baldwin Wallace University (Berea, Ohio). He graduated in 1953 with an A.B. degree in rural sociology and business. Jim then served in the US Army in Korea and was honorably discharged after two years’ service.</p> <p>Following discharge from the Army in 1956, Jim took a job as an Investigator with the Civil Service Commission. He held this positon for about 16 months, during which time he worked in New York City, Buffalo, Binghamton, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Atlantic City.</p> <p>A reduction-in-force necessitated a career move, and Jim entered SCS as an Administrative Trainee in Syracuse, NY, in 1957. Following this trainee work he moved to Connecticut where he was a member of the SAO staff for both Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1965 he took an administrative position in Indiana. In 1968 he was selected SAO for Indiana and served in that position until 1977. Jim reports that those were exciting years for SCS in the state, with two watershed planning staffs in addition to all the other programs. He also reported that during those years he developed many close friendships and had some very memorable experiences.</p> <p>In 1977 Jim accepted the position of Chief of the Budget Branch in SCS National Headquarters. He reports that during his tenure in that job he was able to get the budget management of Conservation Operations moved from his Budget Branch to the Programs Division. Following his work as Chief of the Budget Branch he became a Program Analyst. He held this position until 1984 when he accepted the Departmental position of Special Assistant Deputy Secretary. He retired from that position in September, 1989.</p> <p>After retirement Jim moved to the Smith Mountain Lake area of Virginia. There, in addition to enjoying boating, fishing, and hunting (for both game and antiques/collectibles), he has remained active in resource conservation. He has been a member and President of the Smith Mountain Lake Association (1992-1998). Other related activities include serving as a member of the Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association 2001-2002 where he served on the steering committee (established by the Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association) that helped establish the Upper Roanoke River Roundtable. He also was chairperson of VLWA’s Lakes and Watersheds Committee. Jim also served on Virginia-Governor-appointed commissions such as the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission. He served on the Steering Committee that developed the initiative and legislative draft that led to creation of the Roanoke Bi-State (Virginia and North Carolina) River</p>
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		<p>Basin Commission. It is very active today with a mix of political and business leaders.</p> <p>He has remained active in his church including holding leadership positions in it. He has also served since 2001 in various ways with the Scruggs Fire, Rescue, and Dive rescue squad (as an EMT, a fund-raising chairperson, and as board member since 2007). Lastly, he continues to serve as an auctioneer and floor manager for an auction house south of Roanoke, VA.</p> <p>Jim and his wife Hilde continue to enjoy life in their Smith Mountain Lake community. He has great memories of his work with SCS and the lasting friendships that conservation work gave him the opportunity to make.</p>
Griffin	Billy C.	<p>Senior Conservationist Billy C. Griffin was born at Waelder, Texas. Waelder is in Gonzalez County about 80 miles east of San Antonio. Billy grew up on his family's farm-ranch and graduated from high school there in 1946. He enrolled in Southwest Texas State University following high school and graduated with a B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1950. Billy then served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict from 1951 until he was discharged in January of 1953. During this period he spent a year in Korea with the 25th Infantry Division. After leaving the Army, Billy enrolled at Texas A&I-Kingsville in a graduate program, but due to low enrollment his classes were closed and he had to leave school. He applied for a job as a school teacher and was hired at Bandera, Texas, to teach high school science (he also served as an assistant coach and part time bus driver!).</p> <p>Billy began his conservation career at Bandera at the suggestion of his roommate, Tom Shiflett. From February 1954 until 1966 he worked there, first as a Soil Conservationist, then as Work Unit Conservationist. In 1966 he accepted the position of District Conservationist at San Antonio. He directed that field office until 1970 when he was promoted to Area Conservationist, headquartered at Pecos, Texas. He led that Area until 1972 when he was transferred to Temple, Texas, to be Area Conservationist there. In 1974, Billy was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at the SCS State Office at Temple where he worked for two years. In 1976 he accepted the job of Deputy</p>

State Conservationist for Mississippi. In 1981 he was promoted to State Conservationist there. He and his family spent a total of seven years in Mississippi before Billy was called to lead SCS operations in his home state of Texas. Billy retired January 3, 1986, from his Texas State Conservationist position.

During his career, Billy received numerous awards for his high quality work. Recognition came from within SCS/USDA and from outside. He was the recipient of six Outstanding Performance awards from SCS and a USDA Superior Service Award during his career. He received an award from the Army Corps of Engineers for his "noteworthy service and assistance" in 1982. In 1984 Billy was made a member of the Texas A&M University chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta (the agriculture honor society).

Since he retired, Billy has operated his homeplace as "Griffin Ranch" where he has spent his energies raising Angus cattle and "controlling mesquite brush." Billy met his wife Jo Ann while he was teaching at Bandera; they married in September 1954 and while at Bandera started their family--two sons and a daughter. Billy's lovely wife Jo Ann passed away in 2003. The Griffin Family now includes eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Billy has said that the 35 years he spent with SCS were some of the happiest of his life. He thoroughly enjoyed conservation work and the satisfaction it brought. He has also said that he enjoyed working with people inside and outside SCS. Billy continues to be active in ARCSE activities in Texas and as a conservationist on the land.

Judy	Harris W.	2013	<p>Senior Conservationist Harris W. Judy was born in Maxwelton, WV. Maxwelton is a small community about 7 miles from Lewisburg, WV, in Greenbrier County. He was raised on the family farm and attended local schools. Harris graduated from Lewisburg High School in 1948. Directly from high school he enrolled in Greenbrier Military School on a scholarship. After his freshman year he transferred to West Virginia University. He was there for a couple of years while also working for his father (a building contractor) part time. This he continued until he joined the US Air Force in 1953. He married Dorothea (Dottie) Baker on May 22, 1954. He completed his two-year enlistment in the Air Force and returned home.</p> <p>Back home from the Air Force, Harris worked in housing construction with his father. As it happened, one of their house contracts was with an SCS District Conservationist. One day Harris and the DC were talking and Harris learned of the Student Trainee Program. Harris made a trip to the SCS State Office in Morgantown to investigate the program and was hired as an Engineer Student Trainee at the State Office. From 1956 until his graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in January 1959 Harris was a trainee on the Watershed Planning Staff in Morgantown. Indeed, during his last semester he was the de facto hydrologist on the staff due to an extended leave of absence by the staff hydrologist. Harris gives credit to his co-workers and to Bob Kohnke at Upper Darby for guiding him during that period.</p> <p>After graduation he was hired as Hydrologist at the State Office in Morgantown; he worked there until 1966. In 1966 he was promoted to the job of hydrologist on the SCS Watershed-River Basin Staff at Syracuse, NY. In 1969 he was promoted to Staff Leader there and served until 1972. In 1972 he was promoted to Soil Conservationist on the Watershed Division at SCS National Headquarters where he reviewed watershed work plans and provided input to the Watershed Planning Manual. In 1975 he accepted the position of Soil Conservationist on the River Basins Staff at National Headquarters. In 1977 he was promoted to Assistant Director of the Watershed Division and served in that position until 1985. Harris then accepted an international assignment as Advisor to the Ministry of Forestry of the Government of Indonesia. Soil conservation authority for Indonesia was part of the Ministry of Forestry responsibilities. He worked in that capacity until 1987.</p> <p>Harris retired from SCS in early January 1988 as Soil Conservationist in Washington, DC. Throughout his career Harris was recognized for his work ethic and good work; he was the recipient of several Outstanding Performance awards.</p> <p>Following retirement Harris and Dottie stayed in the Northern Virginia area and moved to Fredericksburg. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary this year. They have three daughters, one son, and 10</p>
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			<p>grandchildren. In addition to involvement with his family, Harris has been (and continues to be) active in his local church and community. He and Dottie have been instrumental in involving not only their church, but other churches and the larger Fredericksburg community in addressing the homelessness crisis there.</p> <p>Regarding his work with Soil Conservation Service, Harris has expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him by Watershed and River Basin leadership during his career. The technical, interdisciplinary approach required to achieve sound watershed planning is one that Harris strongly believes continues to have value for conservation employees.</p>
Krauss	Hans A.	2013	<p>Senior Conservationist Hans A. Krauss was born on Staten Island, New York, and was raised there in the neighborhood of Midland Beach. Although there were farms on Staten Island, Hans did not make a farming connection until after his high school graduation when his parents bought a dairy farm in upstate New York. He was a manager on the farm from 1948 until 1954. During part of that time he was a student at State University of New York at Delhi where he majored in animal husbandry. From 1954 until 1956 Hans was in the U.S. Army where he achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was trained in jungle warfare in Panama. From 1956 through 1959 he attended Cornell University graduating in '59 with a B.S. degree in agronomy.</p> <p>During his college career Hans had been a student trainee with SCS in Northampton, Massachusetts (1958), but when he graduated there were no SCS jobs available. At that point he found employment with Heath Survey Consultants mapping vegetation for gas leakage control at various locations across the country. This job took him to Michigan, then to Denver, and at last to Portland, Oregon. He visited SCS's regional office there looking for the possibility of getting back into a conservation profession. He saw two openings: a Soil Scientist vacancy and a Soil Conservationist vacancy both in Washington State. He chose the latter. He left Heath Survey Consultants in 1962 and went to work at Ritzville, WA, as Soil Conservationist. He was there for two years then was promoted to District Conservationist at Odessa, WA. After two years at Odessa he transferred to Warden, WA, as District</p>

Conservationist where he remained for four years. From 1970 until 1974 Hans was RC&D Project Coordinator at Raymond, WA, for the coastal area of the state. From that multi-county job, he was promoted to State Agronomist at Spokane in 1974 where he continued to provide agronomic leadership for conservation activities until he retired in 1990.

In 1985, Hans contributed chapters to the following books:

Determinants of Soil Loss Tolerance, Dryland Agriculture, and Residue Characteristics for Wind and Water Erosion Control. During his work as State Agronomist he exchanged conservation technologies with other countries through SCS's International Conservation Program. In 1981 he was in Costa Rica in an exchange pertaining to post-volcanic eruption land stabilization and reclamation. In 1984 Hans was part of a review team that evaluated a USAID project in Lesotho, Africa. After he retired he continued to work with Dr. Don McCool of Washington State University on research into crop residue management.

Hans has (and has had) a wide variety of interests outside his work with SCS. His interests have included painting, photography, restoration of German clocks, climbing with the Spokane Mountaineers (he has Mt. Athabasca, Mt. Rainier (twice), Bonanza Peak and Mt. Adams "under his belt" to name but a few). He published a book in 1993 about restoration of Junghans and Hamburg American clocks. And, he has written his memoir, entitled Immigrants' Son which he published in 2010 for family, various libraries in the US and Germany, and for close friends. (His family story begins at the time his parents met in the Hamburg American clock factory in the Black Forest of Germany where his mother was a secretary and his father a tool-and-die maker. He immigrated to the US and then sent for her.)

Hans relates that by the time he finished college his parents had moved to Massachusetts. He was visiting them one Christmas break when he agreed to a blind date with a student nurse at the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing's Christmas dance. He was left speechless by her good looks and she thought he was a bore. Hans and his wife Katie (that nurse) have been married 53 years as of last February. Hans and Katie continue to enjoy life in Spokane, Washington.

Maresch	Wayne F.	2013	<p>Senior Conservationist Wayne F. Maresch was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and grew up in Munhall, a borough 8 miles up the Monongahela from downtown Pittsburgh. His family wanted him to go to college so Wayne worked through high school raising chickens which were sold in his family's store in Munhall. As a student at Pennsylvania State University he continued to work jobs ranging from Christmas holiday letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service to work in metal fabrication (Mesta Machine Co. and Federal Enameling & Stamping Co.). Wayne graduated in 1951 with a B.S. in Agronomy; he enlisted in the Air Force prior to graduation. He married Anna ("Dolly") Kuzma two days before his graduation and within just a few days he and Dolly were on their way to his first training location --- Wright Patterson AFB at Dayton, Ohio. His fighter pilot training took him to five other bases in the U.S until he was sent to Japan. The Korean War was winding down and he spent 30 months in Japan prior to his return to the United States in 1955. Dolly and their growing family moved with him all during this period.</p> <p>Upon his return to the States, Wayne was hired by SCS as a Soil Scientist in Erie, PA, where he worked until 1956 when he was transferred to Indiana, PA, in the same job series. In 1958 he was promoted to Work Unit Conservationist (WUC) at Carlisle, PA. In 1960 he was brought into the Pennsylvania State Office to serve as Administrative Officer (they had noted his experience while in the Air Force as supply officer in addition to his pilot duties.). A reduction of State Office staff in 1964 moved Wayne to Lancaster, PA, where he worked as WUC until 1966. In that year he took the job of Chief of the Management Records Branch in SCS Headquarters; he worked in that position until 1970 when he was promoted to Director of the Management Evaluation Division. He directed that division until 1980 when he became Director of the Administrative Services Division. He retired from Federal service while in this last position on Dec. 31, 1989. In 1977 Wayne was part of a three-person Management Team that received the Secretary of Agriculture's Civil Rights Award.</p> <p>After retirement from SCS, Wayne remained in the Washington, D.C., area. He worked for the Land Improvement Contractors of America, first as Executive Director of its Delmarva Chapter (1990-1993), then Executive Vice President of the organization nationally (1993-2008).</p> <p>Wayne and Dolly have been married 62 years as of June 2012. They have 6 children (one has passed away), 18 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. Over the years Wayne's hobbies have included family activities, gardening, fishing, and camping. Wayne has said that he believes that the way to succeed if you supervise any number of people is to let your employees do their jobs and help whenever you can.</p>
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Ralston	David C.	2013	<p>Senior Conservationist David C. Ralston was born at Beloit, Wisconsin. Beloit is on Wisconsin's border with Illinois. He was raised near Roscoe, Illinois, a village just south of Beloit, on his family's farm (Harlem Twp. Winnebago County). He attended Lovejoy grade school and Harlem High School. David relates that his father, Kenneth, was very active in conservation work early on both on the farm as well as serving on the Soil and Water District Board; the family farm's conservation plan was signed January 12, 1939.</p> <p>He attended the University of Illinois where he graduated in 1952 with a B.Sc. degree in Agricultural Engineering. He worked for SCS as a Student Trainee the last two summers before graduation. During the summer of 1952 he was hired by SCS as Agricultural Engineer and assigned to the Freeport (IL) area office. In July 1952 David was inducted into the US Army and served until 1954. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant in the 5th Regimental Combat Team and served as Platoon Sergeant for one year in Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1954.</p> <p>After his discharge in 1954 he was hired by SCS as Assistant Area Engineer at Urbana, IL. He was promoted in-place to Area Engineer. While at Urbana, David worked toward a M.S. degree in Civil Engineering (hydraulics and soil engineering); he received that degree in 1958. He left Urbana in August 1958 when he was promoted to Design Engineer at the Milwaukee Engineering and Watershed Protection (E&WP) Unit. David worked there (with a promotion of grade) until July 1964 when he accepted the position of Assistant State Engineer in Saint Paul, MN. He served in that job until February of 1966 when he again accepted a promotion to SCS State Engineer for West Virginia in Morgantown. He was in that job until July 1971 when he was promoted to Regional Design Engineer at the Technical Service Center in Portland, OR. David served the western states three years until he was promoted to National Soil Engineer at SCS's National Headquarters. He served in that job from December 1974 until 1977 when he was designated National Design Engineer and Head of the Design Branch of SCS's Engineering Division. He provided leadership as National Design Engineer until he retired in August 1990. Following retirement, David worked part-time as Senior Geotechnical Engineer for Michael Baker Corporation (an engineering professional services firm).</p> <p>David's education and experience are evidence of his strong interest in conservation and in the theory and practice of his area of responsibility. In addition to his baccalaureate and graduate education, he completed graduate-level coursework at Marquette University in computer programming, at Harvard University in soil mechanics, at Portland State University in structure dynamics, and at Colorado State University in stream mechanics. He has authored/co-authored 21 professional, technical papers. These were presented at regional, national, or international meetings. Among the special activities in which he was</p>
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		<p>involved during his career are the Embankment Construction Task Group (chairman) of the US Department of Interior Review Group for the Study of Teton Dam Failure (alternate member), the Subcommittee on Site Investigation and Design of the Ad Hoc Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (member), and the Task Group for Development of Federal Guidelines for Selection and Accommodation of the Inflow Design Floods for Dams (member). His work in SCS also involved training soil scientists in soil mechanics and training engineers and geologists in the soil engineering. He also initiated training for engineers in stream mechanics for channel design.</p> <p>David and his wife, Margaret, have been married 57 years. They met in 1954 when his father-in-law, W.S. Speer, was assigned to Illinois following dissolution of SCS's Milwaukee Regional Office. Margaret's conservation background is as strong as David's. They have one daughter and three sons and one grandchild. David is active in his church; he served two terms as Elder of Session. His hobbies include furniture crafting, gardening, genealogy (of his wife's Speer Family), and softball. He and Margaret enjoy Elderhostel (Roads Scholar) opportunities, too. David relates, "I have always felt that my vocation was also my avocation! What more can you ask for in life?"</p>
Welsh	Gerald B. (Gerry)	<p>Senior Conservationist Gerald B. Welsh (Gerry) was born in New York City. He grew up in the Greenwich Village part of the Borough of Manhattan. After high school, he attended Cornell University where he studied in the College of Agriculture. A requirement for graduation was on-farm experience, and Gerry spent his college summers as a farm worker. Prior to what would have been his senior year in 1951, Gerry joined the US Air Force. Although his desire to become a pilot was thwarted, he attended OCS and Supply Officer School. Just before he completed the latter training in 1953, the Korean War ended with signing of the Armistice Agreement. Gerry left the Air Force and started back at Cornell for his senior year. He majored in agricultural economics and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954.</p> <p>Gerry was hired by SCS in 1954 as agricultural economist on the Watershed Planning Staff at Syracuse, NY. He worked there until 1960, when he accepted the position of Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Santurce (a district of San Juan), Puerto Rico. He held that position until March, 1962, when his unit was administratively abolished, and he was named Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Burlington, VT, where he worked for three years. In 1965 Gerry became Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Phoenix, AZ. Also in 1965, Gerry met and married Alice Campbell. He was located in Phoenix for six years, during which he was promoted to River Basin Staff Leader and then to Assistant STC</p>

for Water Resources. While there, he was instrumental in interagency cooperation that led to development of the Map Information and Display System (MIADS). This system provided significant improvement in analysis of map and landscape-derived information for improved planning and decision-making. During Christmas week of 1971, Gerry and his family moved to the Washington, DC, area so that he could begin his new duties as Soil Conservationist in the Resource Development Division at SCS Headquarters. He worked in that capacity for 10 years. While there he had a four-year assignment to the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, for the Great Lakes water quality study (Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group). In 1982 Gerry was assigned to the post of Research Coordinator during a reorganization of Headquarters. With that shift he joined the Ecological Sciences Division. He held that position until his retirement in 1990. During that period Gerry's work with research agencies both inside and outside USDA did much to improve SCS's ability to more easily acquire the latest in research information. It was also during this period that Gerry was a Legislative Fellow in the office of Senator Paul S. Trible, Jr. (R-VA).

After retirement from SCS, Gerry remained in the Washington, DC, area until 1998 when he and Alice moved to Little River, SC. Gerry and Alice will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary on March 30th of this year. They have two sons, Michael and Marc. Over the years Gerry has been involved in many community and family activities. He is very active in his church (as Deacon and as Sunday School teacher) as well as in the Gideons and in jail ministry. He was a census worker in 1999. He has served on his community lakes and grounds committee. And, he and Alice have enjoyed travels around the United States. His hobbies and interests have also included baseball, softball, fishing, and golf. Gerry says that he is "...grateful for the opportunities he has had to work with so many wonderful people."

Cuthbertson	Ida Diener	2012	<p>Senior Conservationist Ida Diener Cuthbertson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up in Northeast Ohio's Portage County. Ida attended schools there and was a 4-H member. After she graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. degree (Economics), she was employed as a statistician with the Ohio Department of Health. She was acting head of its Biometrics and Records Division before moving to Ann Arbor, MI, with her husband, as he completed his electrical engineering degree. While there she worked for Southwestern Michigan Hospital Council on a project sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation that developed the first automated hospital medical/surgical records system (a system still in use a half-century later). Ida retired briefly from professional work when her family moved to northern Virginia. There she became active on two Fairfax County advisory committees. With her children in grade school, she rejoined the workforce as a Technical Aide for Research Analysis Corporation (the US Army think tank). During that period she also completed a Master of Urban Affairs degree at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.</p> <p>In 1974, Ida was hired by SCS as Community Planner in the Resource Development Division's Conservation Planning Branch at HQ. She held that position until 1980 when she became SCS's Public Participation Coordinator. She reports that during her SCS career her most fulfilling assignments were her public participation duties with an International Joint Commission study (where she introduced public participation concepts to Canadian colleagues) and with USDA's Resource Conservation Act (RCA), the nationwide RCA opinion survey and analysis of public comments. Her work took her to 32 states as well as to Canada, and she became the first female to rise to GS-15 level in SCS career service. She received Outstanding Performance and Outstanding Assistance awards from SCS and USDA respectively for her work, and she was selected for inclusion in Who's Who of American Women. She retired January 31, 1992, and subsequently relocated to Sarasota, Florida.</p> <p>Since retiring, Ida has continued her public spirited service by serving two terms on the Sarasota Environmental Utility Advisory Committee, as Clerk in charge of elections at the precinct level for the past 17 years, and as an enumerator for both the 2000 and 2010 Federal Censuses. She served as ARCSE Florida Representative and ARSCE Vice President-South, as well as secretary for two NARFE chapters. Her volunteering includes ushering in Sarasota at three performing arts venues, her local food bank, a branch library, her church, and in her community chorus. A seven-continent traveler in retirement, her most notable travels are to her father's Volga River valley birthplace and to Antarctica. She also thoroughly enjoys her family--her two children and their families, especially her two grandchildren. Ida gratefully attributes her healthy, happy life to her career at SCS.</p>
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Hicks	Vernon M. ("Vern")	2012	<p>Senior Conservationist Vernon M. ("Vern") Hicks was born in Hico, Texas. Soon after his birth he and his family moved to Three Rivers, Texas, where Vern grew up on his family's livestock farm. He graduated from public schools there during World War II. He enlisted and spent three years in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater of War (from Okinawa to the Philippines). He was discharged in 1948 and spent the next two-plus years "roughnecking" on oil drilling rigs then "pipelining" in Ohio and Michigan. He then enrolled in Texas A&M University and graduated with a B.Sci. degree in Wildlife Management in 1954.</p> <p>After his graduation, Vern was hired by SCS as a soil conservationist at the Raymondville (TX) field office in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. From 1957 to 1958 he worked as soil conservationist at Plainview (TX) on the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle. After Plainview, Vern was transferred to Fort Stockton in west Texas as Work Unit Conservationist; he was there for two years. In 1960 Vern accepted the position of State Biologist for Texas in the SCS State Office at Temple. He held that position until 1975 when he took the job of Regional Biologist for the Northeast and relocated to Upper Darby and then Broomall, Pennsylvania, when the office was moved. In 1980, Vern accepted the position of Director for the Environmental Services Division (ESD) at SCS National Headquarters (NHQ). He led ESD until the 1982 NHQ reorganization when he took the job of Assistant Director of the newly-formed Ecological Sciences Division (ECS). Vern retired in 1983 and subsequently moved to Belton, Texas. Of his early career, Vern has said that he "...very seldom got to go where he wanted to go, but from a training standpoint the locations were great."</p> <p>After retirement from SCS and his move to Texas, Vern has been involved with his family and with environmental consulting. His consulting service for 20 years was to lignite coal surface mining operations for which he inventoried pre-existing vegetation as well as fish and wildlife species. He then developed post-mining revegetation plans (required for mining permits and permit renewals) for his clients. Vern and his wife, Juanita, continue to enjoy their life at "Roadrunner Hill" in Belton, Texas, and their family across the country.</p>
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Kohnke	Bob	2012	<p>Senior Conservationist Bob Kohnke was born in Carroll, Carroll County, Iowa (about 95 miles northwest of Des Moines) and was raised on the family farm there. He graduated from Carroll High School in 1944 and was granted an agricultural deferment from military service for a few months to help his father and mother on the farm. He was later drafted into the U.S. Army. After basic training and artillery OCS he was sent to Japan for a year in the Army of Occupation on Honshu. He returned to civilian life in May 1947 and entered the Iowa State University (ISU) that Fall. Bob graduated in 1952 with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering. That year he also married Donna Mae Pahde, another Carroll Countian, whom he had met anew when he enrolled at ISU.</p> <p>After graduation in 1952, Bob was hired by the Soil Conservation Service as Area Engineer in Humboldt, IA. From Humboldt he was assigned to Council Bluffs, IA, where he was a drainage engineer on the Missouri River Flood Restoration. He was engineer on the Honey Creek Pilot Watershed at Chariton. In 1955 he accepted the position of Hydrologist on the Watershed Staff at the Iowa State Office. In 1957 he took the position of assistant hydrologist at the Milwaukee Engineering and Watershed Protection Unit where he worked until 1964. From Milwaukee Bob then went to the E&WP Unit at Upper Darby, PA. Bob worked there until 1966 when he accepted the position of Wabash River Basin Staff Leader in Indiana. In 1970 he was promoted to National Headquarters in the River Basin Division. Later he served as Director of the River Basin Division until his retirement January 9, 1982.</p> <p>Bob did not remain retired for very long. In 1984 he began work with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (Fairfax County, VA). There he worked on urban and suburban erosion and water management problems for 15 years. Bob's wife Donna passed away in late 1988.</p> <p>Since 1999 Bob has been involved in many volunteer activities, travel, and enjoying time with his 3 children and their spouses and with his 2 grandchildren. Bob still holds a private pilot license, but has not flown recently. In the past he also enjoyed making home-crafted beer. (He brewed 85 batches and could probably write a book.) He also is active at his Lutheran Church. Bob is a regular at the Northern Virginia Retiree Breakfast (first Tuesday of every month) where he is appreciated for his depth of knowledge about conservation, conservationists, and just about any other topic.</p>
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Martin	Cecil	2012	<p>Senior Conservationist Cecil Martin is a recent addition to the honorable list of Senior Conservationists. He was born and raised in Elberton, Georgia (GA), where he also graduated from high school in 1943. After high school, he served in the U.S. Navy as an aerial gunner on a torpedo bomber. After WW II, in 1946, he started college under the GI Bill. He met Eugenia (Gene) Mitchell during his freshman year. They were married on April 16, 1948. He graduated from the University of GA with a BS in Ag Engineering in 1952.</p> <p>Cecil's career with SCS began immediately after graduation in Clarkesville, GA, as he became the Project Engineer for what was to become the first PL-566 (pilot) watershed project. Beginning his upward career movement, in 1956, he became Area Engineer for 26 counties in GA. In 1958, he was promoted to State Design Engineer in GA, supervising a design staff and a geologic site investigation staff.</p> <p>His accomplishments as State Design Engineer are many, including having designed over 300 floodwater retarding dams, some over 100 feet high. Many of the dams contained additional water for recreational and municipal uses. There were many county recreation parks and stream channel stabilization measures, including one urban-area reinforced concrete-lined channel in Columbus, GA. It has water control structures based on hydraulic model studies made at GA Tech and still exists today.</p> <p>In 1973, Cecil became the State Construction Engineer in Georgia. He retired from SCS in 1987 as Assistant State Conservation Engineer. He also retired from the US Air Force Reserve as a Civil Engineer (Major) in 1986.</p> <p>Cecil received numerous job performance awards throughout his career with SCS. One rather unique award came from the Athens Junior Chamber of Commerce, when he was awarded their "Boss of the Year." He also was a registered Professional Engineer and active in professional and civic organizations. Cecil has been a valuable asset to his church, Watkinsville First Baptist, as a member of Deacons and Chairman of Deacons. He served on several church building committees, including one that involved moving the church from downtown Watkinsville to a lovely new facility in a rural setting just east of the downtown area.</p> <p>After retiring Cecil did engineering consulting work for about 4 years. Also, he served on a Water Task Force which developed a plan for a 4-county municipal water dam and reservoir which is now in operation.</p> <p>Cecil and Gene have 5 children, 20 grandchildren and one great grandchild. They have enjoyed their travels and experiences and are currently enjoying retirement on their farm in Oconee County, Georgia. This is where Cecil has raised Angus beef cattle and hay since 1964.</p>
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Stout	Maurice "Mike"	2012	<p>Senior Conservationist Maurice "Mike" Stout was born in Winchester, OH. Mike's family later moved to Hillsboro, OH. (Hillsboro is about 50 miles east Cincinnati.) He graduated from high school there and began studies at The Ohio State University in 1942. In 1943 he entered the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific as part of the 4th Marine Air Wing. He was initially based on Samoa, but moved northward as the war progressed to the Marshall Islands where he was rotated to stateside in January 1945.. Mike saw duty from February 1943 through October 1945. Upon his return home he married and renewed his university studies. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Agriculture with a soils major and an economics minor).</p> <p>After graduation in 1948, Mike was hired by the Soil Conservation Service as Area Soil Scientist in Hillsboro, OH, where he was promoted to Supervisory Soil Scientist in May 1953. His next position was Field Specialist (Soils) at Salina, KS in mid-1957. Two years later he was made Assistant State Soil Scientist for KS. About 8 months later Mike took the same position for the state of Texas and relocated to Temple. In September 1963 he was promoted to State Soil Scientist for SD at Huron; he held that position until January 1971 when he was promoted to Assistant Principal Soil Correlator at the Midwest Technical Service Center at Lincoln, NE.</p> <p>In August 1972 Mike was promoted to head of the Soil Correlation Staff as Principal Soil Correlator and worked in that job until 1982 when he was tapped to be Director of the Midwest National Technical Service Center. Mike retired in January 1987 having served with distinction in all his work with SCS. During his career Mike received 12 Certificates of Merit for his individual work and was part of that honor when the Soil Correlation Staff received that award in 1977.</p> <p>Mike and his wife Maxine have remained in Lincoln following his retirement. They have 5 sons, a daughter, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On February 4th of this year, Mike & Maxine celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. (Their acquaintance is longer; they have known each other since the second grade.) In retirement Mike has been involved with Meals on Wheels, his Neighborhood Watch, and other volunteer opportunities. His hobbies are traveling, fishing, duck carving, and "keeping up with family". Mike writes that he continues to "...enjoy and appreciate the continued contact with former SCS'ers through retiree meetings, ad hoc coffees, and through the retiree newsletter."</p>
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Allen	Mook	2011	<p>Senior Conservationist Mook Allen was born April 7, 1927, in Wood River, Illinois. (Wood River is about 20 miles from Saint Louis, MO, on the Mississippi River.) Mook was educated in local schools.</p> <p>He was drafted late in WWII and was in training for the Pacific Theater (specifically the invasion of Japan) when he was given the opportunity to learn Japanese and become an interpreter/interrogator. He was honorably discharged in 1946. At the recommendation of his brother, Bill, he entered the University of Illinois where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1950. He worked for a while for Standard Oil, but his heart was elsewhere. In 1952 he became a W.A.E. Engineer with SCS, a position he held for three years. During that time he married; he and Helen were married September 12, 1953. In 1956 he joined McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corporation as an engineer on the Mercury and Gemini Space Project where he worked until 1968. Following that experience he rejoined SCS as an engineer. He was Area Engineer for Area 6 in Illinois from 1969 to 1982; he was Environmental Engineer at the Northeast NTC from 1983 to 1987. He then moved to the same position at the Midwest NTC, Lincoln, NE, until his retirement December 31, 1989. He worked following retirement in the Environmental Management Systems area of the Pork Producers.</p> <p>Since retirement he also has continued active involvement in his church (where among other contributions he sings bass in the choir); he continues to be an active member of the American Legion (60-plus year member) where he serves as Post Service Officer and Americanism Chairman; he is President of his local chapter and Illinois District 1 Vice-President of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He has served as an EMT and worked as an ambulance driver for the Bunker Hill (IL) Area Ambulance Service. He has been a volunteer with the Boy Scout Program for over 20 years. He enjoys woodworking and gardening in his spare time.</p> <p>Mook and Helen reside at 419 N. East Street, Bunker Hill, Illinois, about 20 miles north of Saint Louis. They have seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Mook writes that "I had the opportunity to meet and become friends with many very dedicated, wonderful people during my years with SCS." In his typically modest manner he also wrote that "...any honors I may have received were earned as a team member."</p>
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Brister	Rayford	2011	<p>Senior Conservationist Rayford Brister was born April 17, 1927, in Mertzon, Texas. (Mertzon is about 30 miles southeast of San Angelo.) Rayford attended local schools, and after graduation from high school, he joined the Navy where his duty was base security. He did farm and ranch work for about two years after his discharge from the Navy. He began university studies at Tarleton State University and assisted with peanut breeding research during his summers there. He transferred to Texas A&M University. While at A&M Rayford continued his work with peanut selection and also worked for ASCS in the summertime. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy degree in 1952. That was also the year he married Helen and began his career with SCS. He retired from SCS in 1982 after having served as District Conservationist in Edwards, Real, King, Kerr, Maverick, and Medina Counties in Texas. From 1958 until 1963 Rayford took leave from SCS to work with first the International Cooperation Administration then the US Agency for International Development in Pakistan. His first assignment was to Rawalpindi as the agronomist on a 4-person team devoted to soil survey, range management, and engineering. After that program was closed he was transferred to Peshawar (Northeast Tribal Territories) where he participated in a project to determine suitability of hybrid seed corn varieties to local conditions and to hybridize varieties that showed promise. Rayford has remarked that "Every day [there] you could see something you had never seen before." He returned to the US and to SCS as District Conservationist until his retirement.</p> <p>Following retirement he worked as a real estate appraiser of both residential and agricultural properties. He has also enjoyed fishing and hunting and travels with his family. Rayford & Helen reside at 3126 War Arrow, San Antonio, TX. They have three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.</p> <p>Rayford is proud of his careers both with SCS and with the State Department in Pakistan. His career has improved and sustained the wellbeing of all those with whom he worked. About Pakistan today, he writes: "It is disappointing to hear of the disturbances and fighting in the region where I have been. ... Recently I was watching a television news commentary in Pakistan and it showed a small segment of news on agriculture about corn planted in rows with a tractor. The corn looked as good as any corn growing in the U.S. This indicated to me that we did show some success."</p>
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Helmey	Edgar (Ed) L.	<p>2011</p> <p>Recently named to the Senior Conservationist rolls, Edgar (Ed) L. Helmey, is yet another example of the fine caliber of former conservation service employees who are now retired. He has served every community in which he lived and his country. He continues to serve others today from his retirement residence in Raleigh, North Carolina (NC).</p> <p>He was born and raised in Georgia (GA), graduating in 1945 from Marlow Consolidated High School in Effingham County and in 1950 from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering. Upon receiving his college degree, he joined the U.S. Air Force as an enlisted man. This was during the Korean Conflict.</p> <p>Ed's abilities were soon recognized by the military; and he began moving up the ranks, starting with earning his pilot wings and an officer's commission in 1953. Until Ed was released from active duty in 1956, he was involved in B-29 combat training, assigned to a B-29 combat crew (Okinawa), and reassigned to Smoky Hill Air Force Base in Salina, Kansas (KS).</p> <p>His career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began in April 1956, as a Civil Engineer in Gainesville, GA. As the Area Engineer in Northeast GA, until January 1968, he was responsible for engineering work in 14 counties. This being the early years of the PL-566 small watersheds work, there were 8 to 14 engineering project contracts each year. He also continued serving as a pilot with the Air National Guard, Army, and Air Force Reserves during this period. He was busy on weekends and active duty days flying F-86's on intercept missions and C-124 cargo aircraft all over the world, at least one overseas mission every 3 months.</p> <p>In January 1968, Ed was promoted and transferred to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (PA) as the State Construction Engineer. Before he could complete the move from Gainesville, GA, to Harrisburg, PA, his Air Force Reserve unit was activated and called to support the efforts of the Vietnam War. His unit was part of the Air Force Military Airlift Command (MAC) and they flew support missions all over the world. He supported Navy Operations in Spain, NASA Operations in the Caribbean, NATO in Europe, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, South America, and supplies for the Pacific into Vietnam. He was released from active duty and finally reported to work with SCS in Harrisburg in June 1969.</p> <p>Ed's dual career continued, with him flying with the PA Air National Guard. He was awarded the rating of wings of "Command Pilot," the highest rating of an Air Force pilot. He retired from that unit in December 1978, after 28 years, as a Lieutenant Colonel.</p>
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Highfill	Gene	2011	<p>Senior Conservationist Gene Highfill was born July 26, 1928 in Cherokee, OK. At the age of 2 his family moved to Fronia, TX where he began elementary school. In 1936 his family moved to AR where he graduated from Siloam Springs High School in 1946. After high school Gene served in the Air Force as a radio operator. He was based in Japan and had duties throughout the western Pacific region. He started college in 1949 under the GI Bill. He met Ann Mason during his freshman year. They were married June 1, 1950. Gene graduated in 1953 from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering. He began working for SCS as an Area Engineer in Erie and Iola, KS, in 1953. In 1960 he became watershed planning engineer at Salina, KS, and in 1961 he accepted the job of Project Engineer for Watersheds in Atchison and Sedan, KS. In 1966 he went to Washington, DC, as a recreation specialist for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. From that job he accepted the position of Assistant State Engineer with SCS at Champaign, IL; from 1970 through 1972 he was ASTC for Watersheds at Champaign. In 1972 he took the job of watershed planning engineer at SCS Headquarters. From 1974 until he retired in 1983, Gene served as National</p>

			<p>Agricultural Engineer. He retired from SCS on July 30, 1983. Following retirement from Federal service, Gene continued to devote his talents to soil and water conservation issues around the country and the world. He worked on conservation projects and plans for Lesotho and Zambia in Africa and Saint Kitts in the Leeward Islands. He worked as Business Manager/Treasurer for Baptist Missions in Macau. And, for 26 years he prepared income tax returns --- first for H and R Block then for AARP as a volunteer. Gene also served in the US Air Force Reserve as a civil engineer; he retired July 31, 1977, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>Gene & Ann have four children (one son and three daughters), 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. They have enjoyed their travels and worldwide experiences and are currently enjoying retirement in Fort Myers, FL.</p>
Howard	Paul M.	2011	<p>Senior Conservationist Paul M. Howard was born August 20, 1925, in Hamilton County, Tennessee, just outside Chattanooga. He graduated from Sale Creek High School in 1943 and was drafted into the US Army in 1944. He went through basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and from there was selected to be in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. He spent one year training at Baltimore, Maryland, where he learned Japanese and subsequently was stationed in Tokyo in October 1945. Upon his discharge from the Army in 1947 he enrolled at the University of Tennessee. Because of the G.I. Bill Paul says he was able to go full-time and thereby was able to graduate in December 1950. His goal upon graduation (with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Education) was to teach Vocational Agriculture. He and four friends decided to go to Indiana to seek teaching positions. Paul said that it was simply because Indiana paid its VoAg teachers better than Tennessee did. Paul and friends drove to Purdue University, looked at the vacancies across the state, and then drew city names "out of a hat". Paul drew French Lick, Indiana. He went there, was interviewed, and was hired on the spot. He taught there from 1951 to 1955. During that time he met and married Betty Clark in 1952; they will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary this coming December.</p> <p>Paul's SCS career began in 1955 at Paoli, IN, which is just 10 miles from French Lick. He was a trainee for one year, but by the time he left Paoli in 1960, he was District Conservationist. From Paoli he was promoted to AC at Muncie, Indiana, where he worked until 1963. He then took the AC position at Vincennes, Indiana, where there was much more in the way of watershed activity. In 1966 Paul was promoted to Assistant STC at Orono, Maine, where he worked until 1968. In that year his career took him to Des Moines, Iowa, where he worked as Deputy STC. In 1970 he accepted a promotion to State Conservationist for Tennessee where he led state activities until 1975. In that year he was promoted to Director of what was the Resource Conservation Division; he led that Division until 1977 when he became an Assistant Administrator. Another reorganization in the very early 1980s led to</p>

			<p>Paul being named Deputy Chief for Technology. He held that position until he retired March 1, 1986.</p> <p>Paul's breadth of leadership included the international scope of soil and water conservation. He championed international exchange of technology as a way to strengthen SCS's domestic conservation "tool kit". Among his personal achievements in this area was his leadership in 1980 of the first USDA delegation to the Peoples Republic of China. Paul & Betty moved to Sarasota, Florida, three years after his retirement and have enjoyed living there. They have two married sons, Jeffrey and Don, and four grandsons. They enjoy gardening and travel (international and domestic).</p>
Williams	Kenneth L	2011	<p>Kenneth L Williams was born March 24, 1927, and raised on a dairy farm near Vineyard, UT (about forty miles south of Salt Lake City). He attended public schools through high school. He then enrolled in Brigham Young University. Following his freshman year, he was employed as a W.A.E. Conservation Aid by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). While preparing to return to college he was encouraged to take the Civil Service Examination for a position of Student Trainee. He passed and SCS employed him at several locations in UT. He graduated from "The Y" in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy.</p> <p>Ken married Jewel Frampton, his college sweetheart, in 1950 and spent the next two years managing a cattle ranch for her father. He returned to the SCS as a Soil Conservationist in Layton, UT. Between 1954 and 1961 Ken served as District Conservationist in Moab, Huntington, Castle Dale, and Beaver, UT. He then accepted a job as Assistant Area Conservationist, with headquarters at Sebastopol, CA. There was a sizable small watershed program in this area; this was his primary responsibility. In the fall of 1963, Ken enrolled at the University of Michigan in a Masters program that focused on developing methodologies that entities could use to make better use of economic analysis in resource allocation and utilization policy development. Upon completion, Ken was assigned as area conservationist at North Vernon, IN, from June 1963 through January 1965 when he was assigned as State Resource Conservationist for AZ. He was reassigned as Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and Management in Phoenix in 1966. He was promoted to State Conservationist for NM in October 1968 where he served until April 1972. He was then assigned as Western States Field Representative and Director of the West Regional Technical Service Center in Portland, OR. Ken transferred to the</p>

		<p>National Office in 1980 as Deputy Chief for Planning and Evaluation. The most pressing part of his job at this time was completion of the National Conservation Program along with a statement of policy by the President transmitting it to the congress. The primary objective for the program was to ensure that in 2030 our nation could still meet its food and fiber needs. The documents were sent to Congress by President Reagan in December 1982. Ken retired March 31, 1983, and returned with Jewel to their home in Portland. They moved to Orem, UT, November 1992. Sadly, Jewel passed away in February 2001.</p> <p>Ken has always been grateful for Jewel and their family. They had three children, a daughter Joan, then a son Steven, and then another daughter Janet. He extends them his thanks and his gratitude for their willingness to accept the many moves they made and for the support they gave in his career. Joan, Steven, and his wife Katie live in Orem. Janet and her husband John Barringer reside in Matthews, NC. On his 83rd birthday Ken considered his greatest achievement in life to be his three children, fifteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Most of his years following retirement have been spent as a volunteer in several capacities in his Church. He is an avid genealogist and has assisted numerous families as they traced their ancestors. His wife Jewel's genealogy included a large portion of the royalty of England and Europe which added a lot of interest to their research. Ken resides, as of March 2011 at 212 South 1100 East, Orem, UT 84097-5754. His telephone is 801-554-9272. He would enjoy hearing from his friends and former colleagues.</p>	
Adcock	Willie Leroy	2010	Willie Leroy Adcock ("Leroy") was born September 23, 1921, at Cuero, TX, where later he was an honor student and FFA officer at Cuero High School. His vocational agriculture teacher, Fred L. Hansen, inspired him to attend college and choose agriculture as a profession. Leroy attended Texas A&M University. His career at TAMU was interrupted by WWII. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in both the 1st and 3rd Armies in the Field Artillery as an artillery air observer. For his courageous actions, he was awarded the Air Medal with decorations. Following the war he resumed his studies at TAMU and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in agricultural education August 24, 1946. He also served in the 131st Division of the Texas National Guard as liaison pilot; he served six years and was discharged with the rank of Captain August 9, 1954. That same year he earned a Master of Science degree in range management from TAMU. Prior to his work with the SCS Leroy taught vocational agriculture for 6 years --- first to veterans at Beeville, then in high schools in Cotulla and Sinton (TX). He has said that he became interested in conservation work while flying with the National Guard. He "...noticed sheet erosion on cultivated land, and gully erosion everywhere, as well as absence of grass in the brush."

His SCS work experience began as a Trainee and then as a Soil Conservationist (GS-7), Bellville (TX) Field Office from November 8, 1953 to February 1972. He then served as Range Conservationist (GS-7) at Denton (TX) from February 1972 to February 1975 and as Range Conservationist (GS-9) at Decatur (TX) from February 1975 until his retirement August 28, 1980. He was awarded several Certificates of Merit over the course of his career, including an Outstanding Performance award. His approach to range management and resource stewardship was to encourage and educate land owners so they could make informed and correct decisions for the long-term viability of their resource base. Following retirement from SCS, Leroy joined his wife as an agent for the National Farm Life Insurance Company of Fort Worth. This third career kept him in contact with the farmers and ranchers he knew and respected.

Leroy is married to Margaret Louise Ballow. They celebrated their 57th anniversary April 3rd of this year. They have a daughter (Kathy) and a son (Timothy), and one grandson. Leroy & Louise celebrated their 50th anniversary by spending a week in Washington, DC. Leroy reports that his hobbies have included bird hunting, fishing, gardening, and landscaping with native plants. He has been very active in his church, the First Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas. He resides at 728 Sutherland Drive, Tyler, Texas, 75703. Leroy reports that he is in good health and would like to hear from his former colleagues.

Barefoot	Everette G.	2010	<p>I recently had the opportunity to visit with Senior Conservationist Everette G. Barefoot to talk with him about his World War II experiences as gunner on a B-24 bomber in Europe as well as his career with the Soil Conservation Service.</p> <p>Everette grew up on a cotton and tobacco farm in Johnston County, North Carolina near Four Oaks. He graduated from Four Oaks High School in 1942 and went to junior college for a year before volunteering for the Army Air Corps. He was inducted into the service on December 13, 1943, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After Basic Training in Miami Beach, he was sent to Tyndal Field in Florida for gunnery school where he trained as a ball (or belly) gunner. He was sent to Charleston, South Carolina. There he learned the names of those who would be the rest of his 10-man, B-24 crew for the duration of the war. The crew consisted of four officers: pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier and six enlisted men – radio operator, flight engineer, tail gunner, ball/belly gunner, nose gunner and top turret gunner.</p> <p>On his 20th birthday, September 9, 1944, they left Grenier Field, Manchester, New Hampshire with orders to fly via North Atlantic Route to the European Theater of Operations in England to be assigned to the 445th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. After several stops for refueling and delays due to bad weather, they arrived at their new base, Tibenham, England on September 26th. The next day, which was his first full day at the base, the 8th Air Force sustained the highest group loss in its history. Out of 37 bombers dispatched to bomb Kassel, Germany, the 445BG lost 30 planes. Everette said, "We got up and ate breakfast with the crews that were flying that day and watched them take off. By mid-afternoon we were watching for their return. However, only five of the 37 planes returned. Early in the mission, two planes had aborted due to mechanical problems. It was a sad day for us."</p>
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Everette participated in 20 missions from October 7, 1944 until April 10, 1945. The primary targets for their missions were munitions plants, marshalling yards, oil refineries, airfields, railroads, bridges, and synthetic oil plants. Enemy flack and fighter planes were a common occurrence on most missions. Everette recalled that on his first mission he was so scared he could not respond when the pilot radioed to see how he was doing; the co-pilot came to check on him. The only member of their crew to be killed during the war was the bombardier. After Germany's surrender, he returned to the States, and received a thirty-day leave. Everette took advantage of this time to marry Jean Cooper June 12, 1945. Jean was the girl he took to his Junior-Senior prom. After the leave, Everette and his crewmates reported to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. From there they went to Las Vegas, Nevada, for B-29 bomber training in preparation for the South Pacific Theater. He was at Las Vegas when Japan surrendered. Sergeant Barefoot was discharged November 19, 1945, at Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado.

Everette was awarded the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters for meritorious service with the Army Air Force for his service in Europe. For the past 60 years the crew has kept in touch with each other. Beginning in 1954, they began having reunions. At first the reunions were sporadic but later became an annual event. Everette is the only crew member still living.

Everette began his career with SCS on August 24, 1948 as a SP 4 technician in Johnston County. Everette says that his most enjoyable job with SCS was working with farmers and especially helping them install tile drainage, farm ponds and grassed waterways. He retired on February 22, 1980. Everette and Jean have two sons, Stephen and

Michael, and one grandson, John. They still live on part of the family farm where he was reared. After retiring from SCS, Everette raised strawberries and established a country ham curing enterprise. In 1998 he retired a second time.



By: Jim Canterbury
NC ARSCSE Representative

Fobair	I.W. "Bill"	2010	<p>I. W. "Bill" Fobair was born on the Niobrara ranch near Butte, Nebraska, that was homesteaded by his grandfather in 1890. Following the 1929 Stock Crash the family moved to Butte. By the time Bill reached the eighth grade he was determined to become a conservationist due to the severe rill and gully erosion he witnessed in rural Boyd County. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII (1943-1947) and again during the Korean War (1951-1953). In between those wars he received his B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. There he was a charter member of their student chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. He married Joyce A. Pellew in 1949. Joyce was "...a knowledgeable, young lady from New Zealand", Bill writes.</p> <p>By September 1953, when Bill received his second discharge from the Navy, Joyce expressed a desire to visit her family. Bill had never met them so they planned an extended trip to New Zealand before Bill started his career in the Soil Conservation Service. They made the trip aboard the HMS Oronsay, with stops in Hawaii and Fiji, arriving in New Zealand in December, 1953. Bill pursued post-graduate studies at the Canterbury Agricultural College, in Lincoln, South Island, New Zealand. Prof. McCaskill was his counselor. Prof. McCaskill was acquainted with the SCS program in the U.S. Later Don Williams, upon request by the New Zealand government, spent six weeks in developing his recommendations for carrying out their Soil and Water Conservation program. Bill still has a copy of his report. Bill took out a patent pending for a foldable, rolling shopping basket, had 1000 made, and sold them after graduation in 1954 while still in New Zealand. The proceeds paid for their return to the States in 1955.</p> <p>Bill started his career with SCS at North Platte, Nebraska in May 1955. He was assigned to the Alma, Nebraska, Work unit in late 1956. In 1964 Bill and his staff received the Superior Service Award. Bill later served as Area Conservationist in Flint, Michigan, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in the Panhandle of Nebraska and as Seed Production Specialist, for the small livestock industry, Tunis, Tunisia. Bill retired in 1981 with 33 years of service including 7 years with the US Navy.</p> <p>After retirement, Bill continued his work in resource conservation. From 1982 to 1986 he was under contract to Utah State University and Louis Berger International to implement a soil and water conservation program in the Central Rangelands Development Project in Somalia. The program included dune stabilization in eleven villages, establishment of three regional nurseries, water well rehabilitation, and construction of dams and dugouts.</p> <p>After Somalia, Bill and Joyce lived in Sedona for 13 years before moving to Cottonwood, Arizona, in 1998. Bill and Joyce have traveled to 39 countries, all states in the U.S. with one exception, and several Canadian provinces. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 5, 2009. Their son Roger is a mechanical engineer with John</p>
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			<p>Deere at its corporate headquarters. Their son, Ralph, is Technical Education Director at Mingus Union High School in Cottonwood. Bill and Joyce have three grandchildren. Bill traces his family history to Montreal and enjoys genealogy, landscape design, and consultation. He feels he owes his success and enjoyable career to hard work and his shared experiences with other committed conservationists he worked with along the way. If you would like to drop Bill a note, his email address is billfobair@gmail.com.</p>
Klingelhofer	Karl	2010	<p>Karl Klingelhofer was born on 8/11/26 and raised on family farm in Central Illinois. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps when he was 17 but never got to fly since they had a surplus of pilots. He graduated from the Univ. of Wisconsin in 1948 in Agricultural Engineering. After taking a number of post-graduate courses he became a Registered Professional Engineer in Illinois in 1952. While at the U of W, he took the exam for the Soil Conservation Service in 1948 and was selected for an Engineer-Training position at Littleton, CO. However, a recruiter from International Harvester came on campus looking for an Agricultural Engineer to be Field Manager of a hemp plantation at Davao, Southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Why he was interested and why it turned out to be a bad decision is a long story, but after extensive consultation with his fiancée, Georgann, he decided to accept the position and left for the P.I. two months after they were married.</p> <p>That didn't prove to be a good decision, but he was still eligible for the position with the SCS and took the job as Engineer in Training at Ogden, UT; still in 1948. They missed the Midwest, and moved to Ohio in 1949 where he was an Asst. Work Group Engineer and then Work Group Engineer. In 1951 the "grass appeared greener on the other side of the fence" and he took a position as Groundwater Hydrologist with the Illinois State Water Survey. In 1953, he returned to the SCS as an Area Engineer and Engineering Specialist in Michigan; then to Asst. State Conservation Engineer in 1958 in Minnesota. In 1964 they moved to Amherst, MA where he was the State Conservation Engineer and Acting Asst. for Watersheds. Karl said that was the best job he ever had</p>

			<p>because of the very active watershed program. After seven years there, he took a position in the National Office as Asst. Director of Watershed Planning Division and then the Director of the Planning Division for three years. This was a very active time for PL 566. He managed \$11M (1974\$) of planning funds and testified before Congressional Committees several times. He became Chief of Floodplain Management and Special Projects Branch which included the Colorado Salinity Control Program and worked on the National Water Assessment. While in this position, he was a US delegate to a UN Water Conference in E. Germany. Karl retired from the SCS on August 28, 1981 and stayed in the DC area for another 10 years working as a private consultant, full and part time, for a private engineering firm. He had two volunteer assignments; one month in Costa Rica and one on the Island of Roatan. In 1991, they moved to Tucson, AZ to an Active Adult retirement community and he continued part time work for the private engineering firm until age 75.</p> <p>The Klingelhofers have two sons, 5 grandchildren, and one great grandson. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a trip to Europe and then Georgann developed a rare incurable medical condition. Georgann passed away November 2008 after 60 years of marriage. Karl still plays tennis, is taking flying lessons, and just returned from a trip around the world that included Australia, New Zealand, and India. The trip generated 900 pictures. His career with SCS will always be the cornerstone of his professional life.</p>
Losh	Lennie	2010	<p>Senior Conservationist Lennie Losh was born in Lakewood, Ohio, March 12, 1925. He worked summers on his family's farm in Knox County, Ohio. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served as a combat infantryman in both the European and Pacific Theaters of World War II. On his return to civilian life he entered The Ohio State University (OSU) in 1946.</p> <p>While attending OSU in 1946, he withdrew and joined SCS as Conservation Aid in Scioto County, Ohio. He returned to OSU, graduating in 1949 in Agronomy and 1951 in Economics. He returned to SCS and in 1953 became Work Unit Conservationist for Shelby County, Ohio. He was promoted in 1955 to Ohio's SCS State Office as Watershed Economist. In 1960, he became Ohio's Watershed Party Leader (he was the first nonengineer in SCS appointed to that position at the state level). In 1964, he was assigned to the Regional Office in Milwaukee to lead RC&D project planning in the Midwest. In 1965, Lennie was at the Midwest Technical Service Center, Lincoln, NE. From 1966 to 1980, he served in SCS's National Office. His duties included serving as USDA's representative to the U.S. Navy and to the U.S. Defense Department on economic activities, helping develop the National Soil and Water Conservation Program, and representing USDA on the White House Council of Environment Quality.</p>

			<p>Upon retirement in 1980, he joined President Reagan's campaign as agriculture consultant. He returned to Ohio after the election and developed Ohio's Soil and Water Conservation Program. In 1981, he returned to Washington and joined Congressman M. G. Oxley's, (R-OH) staff handling economic and agricultural issues. In campaign years, he briefly served on the House Republican Research Committee and as a consultant to President George H. W. Bush's 1988 campaign. He left the House of Representatives in 1995, returned to Ohio, and joined the Ohio Department of Agriculture for a year as consultant on environmental and conservation issues to the Director of Agriculture. While working for SCS he received numerous awards and commendations including the Superior Service Award. He authored several papers published in the Soil Conservation Magazine, the Ohio Academy of Science, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and the American Farmland Trust. He appeared before the Ohio Senate Agriculture Committee on conservation issues. He was named a Fellow of the Ohio Academy of Science; and, in 2007 was inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame.</p> <p>Lennie continues to be active in agriculture circles. In 2006 and 2007, he represented U. S. Agriculture on the US Export-Import Bank's Advisory Committee. Currently, he serves on the Israel-Ohio Agriculture Initiative Advisory Committee, the NRCS State Technical Committee, and as consultant to Land Stewards, LLC.</p> <p>Lennie is extremely proud of SCS for providing the opportunity for a satisfying career in conservation, and, for the wonderful colleague relationships during his career. He is married to Jean Hippler Losh. They have a son, a daughter, and 2 granddaughters. He continues to operate the family farm, enjoy fishing in Lake Erie and in farm ponds, gardening, and consulting with Ohio farmers on USDA programs.</p>
MacLauchlan	Bob	2010	<p>Senior Conservationist Bob MacLauchlan was born at home on the family farm near Dennysville, Maine. (Dennysville is in eastern Maine just a few miles from Nova Scotia and at the head of Dennys Bay, a tributary of the Bay of Fundy.) Bob graduated from Dennysville High School and at the age of 17 joined the US Navy. He served in the Pacific theater of World War II. After the war he attended the University of Maine, where he graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy. Following graduation, Bob worked for the Extension Service in Oxford County, Maine, in 1949. He took a job in 1950 with Soil Conservation Service that required him to relocate to California! There he met Ruth who became his wife. From then until he accepted a position at SCS Headquarters, his career posts were west of the Mississippi River. Among those positions were agronomist at the SCS Nursery in Pleasanton, CA; assistant manager of the Bellingham (WA) Plant Materials Center; Plant Materials Specialist for Western Oregon and Washington then for California and western Nevada, and Regional Plant Materials Specialist at the Midwest National Technical</p>

Service Center. In 1973 Bob was selected to be National Plant Materials Specialist; he held that position until his retirement in 1985. Bob's knowledge of conservation plant materials and his leadership of the program were recognized nationally and internationally. He participated in technology exchanges with Algeria, (Peoples Republic of) China, Mexico, and the Soviet Union. Upon retirement, Bob and his wife Ruth returned to Lincoln, Nebraska. There Bob and Ruth were immersed in family activities, recreation, and community service. Ruth passed away in 2002. Bob and Ruth have four children. Their three daughters are married and teach in Nebraska schools. Their son is married and is a pilot with Delta Airlines. Bob reports that he has 9 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Bob has continued to be active in NARFE, Kiwanis, Meals-on-Wheels, gardening, hunting (big game) and fishing.

Bailey	Oran (Bill) F.	2009	<p>Recently I spoke with Oran (Bill) F. Bailey of Peralta, New Mexico, to determine what aspects of his interesting life he'd like me to share with ARSCSE newsletter readers. Like so many of our Senior Conservationists, Mr. Bailey has participated fully in life, not just a career with SCS.</p> <p>After graduating from Oklahoma State in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Mr. Bailey began his 30-year career with SCS. Because his SCS career took him to many parts of the world, a list of key positions held follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1949-1955, Soil Scientist (SS), Anadarko, OK 1955-1958, Area SS, Altus, OK 1959-1967, Assistant SS, Las Cruces, NM 1968-1971, Assistant State SS, Albuquerque, NM 1971-1972, US AID Soil Advisor, New Delhi, India 1972-1976, State SS, Honolulu, HI 1976-1980, State SS, Albuquerque, NM <p>Mr. Bailey (stage name Bill Bailey) shared with me that music (primarily fiddling) has been a part of his life outside of his work career since 1949. He fiddled at square dances and performed for entertainment everywhere he lived, including India and Hawaii. He broadened his focus somewhat to country music around 1958, playing in local country or family bands. This lasted until he completed a Master's Degree at NM State University. He was then transferred to the SCS State Office in Albuquerque.</p> <p>Bill Bailey and the Country Classic Band was formed in the late 1970's and continues performing to this day. Edith Bailey, Bill's wife, is at his side playing rhythm guitar in the Country Classic Band. They played together on two CD's that were produced by the Fiddlers and Musicians of New Mexico, Inc. and recorded one CD with Country Classic Band. They have many trophies and honors for their contributions to music history.</p>  <p>Bill and Edith Bailey</p>
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Just this year, Mr. Bailey experienced yet another new musical adventure. While at the Veterans Hospital in Albuquerque, NM, he learned of a 20-year old program called National Veterans Creative Arts program. As a veteran of WWII and a patient at a Veterans Hospital, he met the requirements to compete. He competed in the musical portion of the local program, and his performances (singing and instrumentals in Blue Grass and Country music) were videotaped and submitted for the national competition. He competed in the over-65 age group. He won all of the categories in which he competed in the local competition. In addition, he won the national vocal country category and second place in the national instrumental country category. His reward was a one week, full expenses-paid trip to Riverside, CA. He was treated to many tours and a wonderful experience of performing with about 70 other talented veterans during his trip.

Bogner	Neil and Eleanor	2009	<p>Our featured Senior Conservationists are a lovely married couple, Neil and Eleanor Bogner. Both of them have reached the minimum age required to become a Senior Conservationist (83 years), and they both have worked for SCS. As a matter of fact, that is what brought them together initially. Neil was fairly early in his career with SCS when he met Eleanor, who was the Area Clerk in Urbana, Illinois (IL) in 1953 and 1954. Neil had graduated from the University of IL in 1950 with a BS in Engineering and Agriculture. He started his career with SCS as a student trainee in 1949 in Henry, IL. He continued with engineering jobs at Bloomington, IL, Caruthersville, Missouri (MO), and Urbana, IL. (Chronicler notes that SCS used to make employees move around more than they do today.)</p> <p>Eleanor and Neil married in November 1954. He moved that month, to another position with SCS, this time as an Area and Project Engineer, in Macomb, IL. Neil's career blossomed; however, SCS lost a good employee when Eleanor began moving to support Neil's career and to raise their family. He became the Regional Construction Engineer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (WI) in 1961. He later transferred to the Upper Darby, Pennsylvania (PA) office (1964) to be that Region's Construction Engineer. In 1967, he was promoted to Head, Engineering Watershed Protection Unit for the Upper Darby Region.</p> <p>Neil and Eleanor finally settled down in the Washington, D.C. area in 1972. He held 3 key positions at the National Office until he retired in 1983 -- Assistant Director of Engineering Division, Director of Engineering Division, and Associate Deputy Chief for Technology. Neil has been honored for his many years of supporting ARSCSE; however, both Neil and Eleanor also need to be recognized for their 17 years of volunteer work at Fairfax Hospital in Virginia (VA). Eleanor and Neil were coordinators for several years.</p> <p>They continue sharing the ups and downs of life today, 55 years later. Who said that office romances don't last! A big change for them recently was moving from their home in Springfield, VA to a senior community in Catonsville, Maryland. They are closer in proximity to some of their family, and enjoying that very much.</p>
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Neil and Eleanor Bogner

Brubacher	John I. 2009	<p>Senior Conservationist John I. Brubacher, 83, grew up on an irrigated farm in San Luis Valley, Colorado (CO), and he resides in Ft. Collins, CO. As you'll learn, however, he and his wife, Leona, have moved around a bit.</p> <p>His initial travels outside of CO were compliments of the U.S. Army Air Force in 1944. He was a ball turret gunner on the B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber, 8th Air Force, Polebrook, England. He was discharged in 1946. After returning home, John worked as a parts man in a farm implement facility for 1 year. He then used the GI Bill to start college at Adams State in Alamosa, CO. He transferred to Colorado A & M in Ft. Collins, CO, in the General Agriculture field (Colorado A & M is now Colorado State University). John married Leona about 1 year before he graduated from Colorado A & M in 1952.</p> <p>John's career with SCS began in 1953 in Durango, CO, as a Soil Scientist. He transferred to Julesburg, CO, in late 1953; and while there, he completed soil surveys of Sedgwick and Phillips counties. Both were published. John transferred to Steamboat Springs, CO, in 1965, as Party Leader in Routt county. He also had Soil Scientist responsibilities in Moffat, Rio Blanco, Eagle, and Jackson counties.</p> <p>An out-of-state move to Lincoln, Nebraska, came in 1973. John worked there as the Assistant State Soil Scientist until late 1979. Among other things, he wrote sections for York and Lancaster counties soil surveys; and he co-authored the Furnas county soil survey. John was selected to be the State Soil Scientist in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1979. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1986.</p> <p>Since retiring, John and Leona have traveled much of the West, including Hawaii and Canada. He is a life member of Soil and Water Conservation Society of America and a member of Poudre Golden K Kiwanis Club in Ft. Collins. With John having excellent health, he continues to be active in gardening, woodwork, and fishing. He and Leona have 2 sons, 2 daughters, and 10 grandchildren. They live in Colorado, Nebraska, and Georgia.</p> <p>A recent milestone for John and Leona was their 57th wedding anniversary in June 2008. A special career accomplishment, in this chronicler's opinion, is that John received safe-driving awards during his entire career with SCS. Knowing something about the wildlife and driving records of the residents of the states in which he worked, I'd say that is quite an accomplishment. Way to go, John!</p>
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Love	Orville W.	2009	<p>Former Area Conservationist, Orville W. Love, now 92, is our featured Senior Conservationist. Born and raised in Kansas, Mr. Love now lives just across the Missouri River in St. Charles, Missouri, near his daughter, Janet. He enjoys spending time in Kansas City with his daughter, Sherry, and her family. He also takes pleasure in hearing from his son, Doug, who lives in Illinois, and has three busy, young adult children.</p> <p>Mr. Love lives alone since the passing of Virginia, his wife of 62 years, in 2008. He still drives and attends church, American Legion meetings, and NARFE meetings. He also exercises regularly, which could help to explain his active participation in life's activities. Mr. Love has enjoyed his volunteer activities, which are all about helping others -- Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H, church, and the public library.</p> <p>He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Kansas State University in 1941. After graduating with honors, but before joining USDA's SCS, he worked one year with USDA's Farm Security Administration, served four and one-half years in the U.S. Air Force, and then worked one year with the Veteran's Administration.</p> <p>Mr. Love's military service was performed during World War II. He was a Communication's Officer for cryptography and intelligence. He served at a base on Adak Island in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. After receiving the American Theater medal, the Asiatic Pacific Service medal and World War II Victory medal, he separated from the military with the rank of Major. His 30-plus year career with SCS spanned from 1947 to 1980. His career included working as a Work Unit Conservationist in Olathe, KS, an Assistant Area Conservationist in Emporia, KS, and finally an Area Conservationist in Topeka, KS. Mr. Love still has a farm in Johnson County, Kansas, which he has owned since 1950. He ensures that conservation practices are still being followed.</p> <p>Mr. Love states that watching the Beijing Olympics on TV last year was especially interesting since he and daughter, Janet, spent three weeks touring China in 1988. It hardly looked like the same place they remember.</p>
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Murray	J. Phillip	2009	<p>North Carolina (NC) ARCSE Representative, Jim Canterbury, has done it again! He wrote a wonderful story on one of the NC Senior Conservationists, J. Phillip Murray. On the Senior's 87th birthday, Jim had an opportunity to visit with him about his World War II service as a B-24 co-pilot as well as his career with the Soil Conservation Service. Excerpts from Jim's story follow.</p> <p>Phillip graduated from Spring Hope High School in Nash County, North Carolina, in 1938. He wanted to be a civil engineer so he enrolled at NC State College. After three semesters, WW II was in full swing so he decided that he should join the Army and become a pilot. He rode a bus to Raleigh and took the required test. No sooner than getting home, he received a call at his brother's house telling him that he was selected for glider pilot training. On June 25, 1942, Phillip was officially inducted into the Army in Raleigh, NC.</p> <p>While Phillip was in glider pilot training at Lockbourne, Ohio, he, along with several others, were told that they were being transferred for training to be a bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps, later known as the Air Force. He trained to be a B-24 pilot in New Mexico and received specialized training in Nevada. During a 10-day pass in January 1944, he made a fast train ride back home to marry Louise Leonard.</p> <p>In June 1944, he was transferred to the 13th Air Force in the South Pacific. Until April 1945, Phillip flew combat missions. Maybe the most memorable flight for First Lieutenant Murray was the first mission to bomb a Japanese fuel depot in Balikpapan, Borneo (now part of Indonesia) where the Japanese were reported to get 90% of their gasoline. In this mission there were 24 bombers. This flight required 16 hours from their base to the target. Since fighter planes could not carry enough fuel for a flight of this distance, the bombers had no fighter plane support. Even though the bombers were carrying 3750 gallons of fuel, they did not have enough fuel for all of the return flight; therefore, they had to find a place to refuel. On the first day of the bombing raid, he was the second plane in the formation when the lead plane was shot down; and its crew bailed out. His plane moved up to the lead position in the formation, and the photographer on their aircraft recorded the raid. One of the most viewed photographs of WW II was taken out of his plane on this mission. If you have the opportunity to visit the Air Force museum in Dayton, Ohio you will see the photo. A copy of the same photograph is also on display in the Smithsonian Institute.</p> <p>Phillip did not participate in the bombing raid on the second day, but on the third day he spotted the crew that had been shot down the first day floating in the ocean. Even though it was against policy, Phillip called for a submarine to pick up the crew. Fortunately, a submarine was able to rescue the entire crew that night. On this first mission, they lost 13 of 24 bombers. Phillip, like all military persons in wars, sacrificed so much to keep their homeland safe. One small example for Phillip is</p>
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that he spent his first wedding anniversary flying a bombing mission while his wife was back home giving birth to their first child, Ann.

Phillip was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic efforts; and after serving a couple of years in the reserves, received his discharge. He returned to his farm in Spring Hope, North Carolina, where he grew tobacco, corn, soybeans and wheat. The farm has been in the Murray family even before the Civil War. His great-grandfather, Joseph Murray, served in the Confederate Army.



On November 6, 1945, Philip began his career with the Soil Conservation Service as a Conservation Aid in Nashville, North Carolina. He was one of the first people in the state to be promoted to a GS-5 Soil Conservation Technician. Mr. Murray retired in 1977, spending his entire career in Nash County. He says he really enjoyed his work with SCS. He made a lot of friends, and one of the most enjoyable parts of the job was helping farmers install erosion control practices on cropland. His favorite thing was staking terraces. After retiring in 1977, he expanded his farming operation and at one time was raising 75 acres of tobacco. He eventually turned the farm over to his

sons, Phill and Keith. They still grow tobacco, wheat, and soybeans but chickens and swine are the main enterprises on the farm today.

Phillip and Louise had five children: Ann, Johnny, Martha, Phill and Keith. In 1986 his wife died. Phillip later remarried, and he and Anne live on the family farm in Spring Hope in the house that he built in 1952.



Cyr	Sylvia S.	2008	<p>Sylvia S. Cyr supported the SCS operations in Nevada for over 21 years (1960 - 1981) as an Area Clerk, Secretary to the State Conservationist, and an Information Specialist.</p> <p>She was born in Springfield, Vermont and lived in Woodstock, Vermont through high school graduation in 1942. She was then employed by Wyman Gordon, Co. in Worcester, Massachusetts for 4 years as a Secretary. Ms. Cyr joined her family in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1946, where she worked for the Springfield Ordnance District and attended American International College -- graduating with a business degree in 1955. In 1954, Ms. Cyr moved to Reno, Nevada; and she has lived there ever since. Not one to let the dust settle on her shoes, she worked an additional 15 years for a CPA in Reno after retiring from SCS. Ms. Cyr also served as the Nevada representative for ARSCSE from 1981 to 1985.</p> <p>Ms. Cyr reports that she is "very fortunate to be in good health." She walks, does aquacises, attends Curves, and plays duplicate bridge. She also enjoys helping her older friends with companionship, shopping, and care. She recalls her SCS days fondly, stating "I loved my years at SCS and got to tour and work every little town in Nevada. As you know, there aren't many. Working with the few farmers and mostly ranchers was lots of fun. They were down-to-earth people."</p>
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Jones	John M.	2008	<p>Recently Jim Canterbury, North Carolina ARSCSE representative, had an opportunity to visit with Senior Conservationist John M. Jones about his work experience with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Mr. Jones was the first African American Soil Conservationist hired in North Carolina. He is now 93 years old and has been retired 35 years. I think you'll enjoy the following excerpts from Jim's written report of his visit with the Mr. Jones.</p>  <p>John and Mattie Jones</p> <p>Mr. Jones graduated from NC A&T State University in 1938 with a BS Degree in Agriculture. He began working with the Soil Conservation Service in 1942 when the agency hired a few graduates from 1890 chartered schools to work primarily with black landowners. Prior to working for SCS, Mr. Jones was a principal at Rocky Knoll School, a Rosenwald three-room school in Durham County, North Carolina. He also taught 5th, 6th, and 7th grades. Rosenwald Schools were made possible through the Julius Rosenwald Fund administered by Tuskegee Institute. The Rosenwald rural school building program was a major effort to improve the quality of public education for African Americans in the South in the early 20th century. About 5,000 Rosenwald Schools were built.</p> <p>Mr. Jones left his principal's job to work at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It was at Fort Bragg that he saw a notice on the bulletin board for a Soil Conservationist position with SCS. He applied and remembers receiving a telegram from Washington asking that he go to the Regional Office in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for an interview. Since he wanted to work in North Carolina, Mr. Jones sent a message to Mr. Earl</p>
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Garrett, SCS State Conservationist, to see if he could get a job in North Carolina.

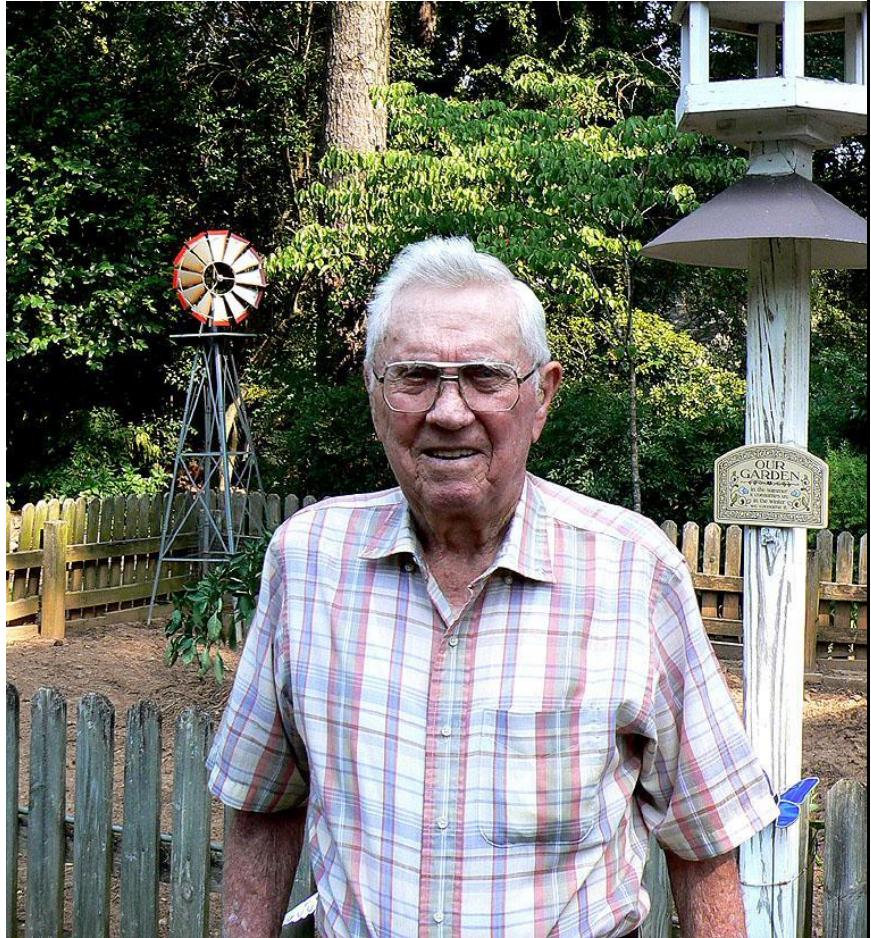
After an interview with Mr. Garrett, he was offered a job in Wadesboro, North Carolina, home of Hugh Hammond Bennett. This was the Brown Creek Soil Conservation District, the first district organized in the nation. Mr. Jones said he knew Chief Bennett and saw him several times at the Bennett home place when the Chief would be in town. He said things were different when he started to work. His office was not with the other field office staff. Instead, he was housed with the black extension agent, and it was assumed that he would work only with black farmers. His Work Unit Conservationist was Phil Robinson and the District Conservationist was Harvey Kelly. He also worked two days a week in Richmond County.

Mr. Jones was drafted in 1943 and served in The Army Air Corps in World War II. He attended graduate school at Michigan State University for one quarter after his military service, but he said he needed to return to work because of financial reasons. During that quarter he earned two "A's" and three "B's". After twenty years in Wadesboro, Mr. Jones was transferred to Whiteville, NC. In 1967 he was transferred to Fayetteville where he retired in 1973 as a Soil Conservationist. Mr. Jones received a certificate of merit in 1970 for high quality performance. After retiring from SCS, he worked 12 years at Perkins Library at Duke University.

Mr. Jones and his wife of 67 years, Mattie, live in Bahama, North Carolina, on the farm where his father was a tobacco farmer. They have a son and daughter and two grandchildren who live in Atlanta. He has the distinction of living on John Jones Road, named for his father. He can remember distinctly cutting wood with a crosscut saw and axe for the furnaces of the flu-cured tobacco barns.

Mr. Jones' health is good and he is still very active. Until two years ago, when he had knee surgery, he was playing golf three times a week. He is a member of a volunteer agricultural advisory board. He and his wife are active members of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church where his mother took him to church as a boy in a buggy drawn by a mule named Kate.

Pleasant s	R. C. "Clyde"	2008	<p>North Carolina representative, Jim Canterbury, has provided yet another fantastic chronicle. This one touches on the early history of the conservation movement and a conservation pioneer. Enjoy!</p> <p>Senior Conservationist Clyde Pleasants will be 100 years old March 16, 2009. He was born in Johnson County, North Carolina, where he was reared on a general farm. His dad raised tobacco, cotton, corn, soybeans, beef cattle, hogs and sheep. He remembers the family going to Bethel Baptist Church in a two-seat buggy pulled by one of the two mules they used on the farm. In 1933, he was one of three students to graduate from NC State College (now University) with a Degree in Soils.</p> <p>Mr. Pleasants began his conservation career with the Soil Erosion Service (SES) soon after graduation. He began work in Newland, North Carolina, as a Soil Surveyor making a general soil survey of Avery County. In 1934 he was transferred to the High Point Soil Erosion Demonstration Project, the first in North Carolina. High Point was used as a training site for all of the new SES employees. After a few months of training in High Point, he was transferred to Wadesboro, North Carolina, where he mapped soils in the Brown Creek Demonstration Project. He said that he passed the Hugh Hammond Bennett's home place almost every day on his way to map soils. From Wadesboro he was sent to the Huntersville Demonstration Project in Mecklenburg County. Four Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps were assigned to this demonstration project. His job was to provide a soil survey for the farms being planned. Mr. Pleasants said, "Their motto was plan the farm and farm the plan".</p> <p>His next transfer took him to Forest City where he mapped soils in Rutherfordton County. In 1941, he was transferred back to Wadesboro where he worked until 1945. His last move was to the Raleigh Area office where he worked until his retirement in 1963. Mr. Pleasants said that mapping soils in those early days was much different than today. In 1933, he used a plane table to make a soils map. He said, "We did not get aerial photographs until 1934 when I was working in the High Point Demonstration Project. This really made the job easier and provided a more usable map because of the photo background." The soil surveyor recorded on the map a symbol for the soil type, slope, the erosion classification and the present land use.</p> <p>Mr. Pleasants has been retired 45 years and lives alone in the same house that he bought in 1945 when he moved to Raleigh. After retirement, he kept busy for several years with the two farms he owned in Johnson County. These farms are now housing developments. He once told me there was more money in growing houses than in growing corn. His wife Ruby of 68 years passed away five years ago. He is still active and has a garden in his backyard.</p>
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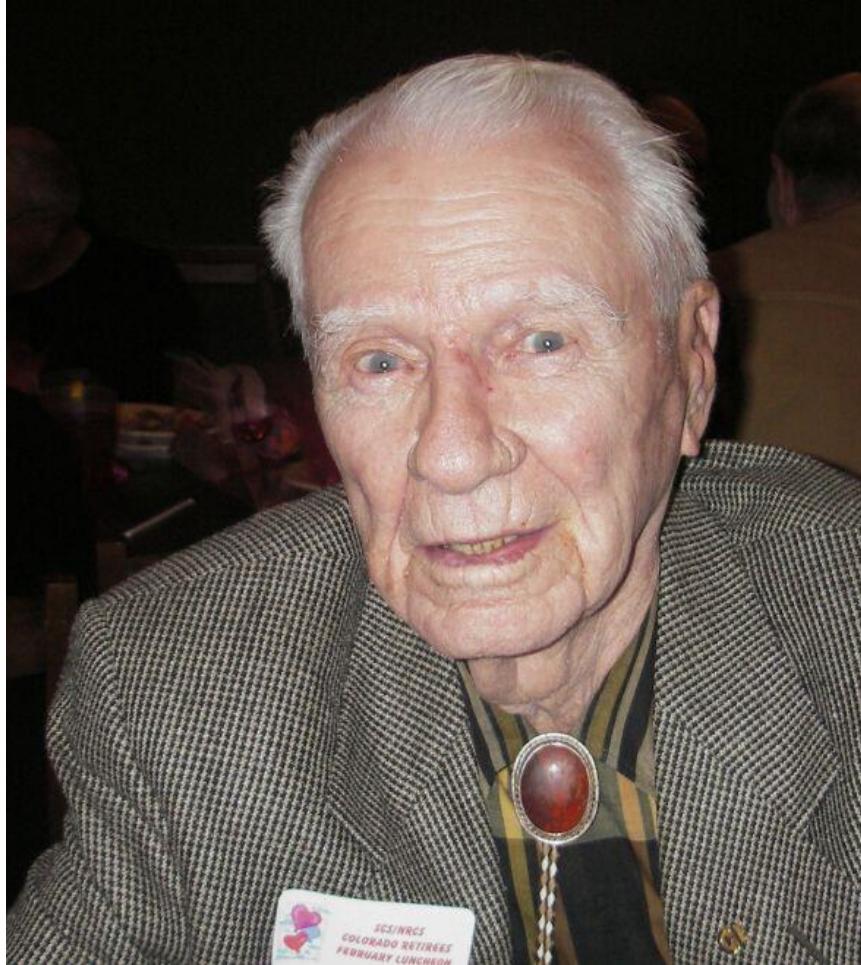
Quilliam	Bob	2008	<p>Bob Quilliam is one of our newest Senior Conservationists, turning 83 years young in 2007. Many of you have probably crossed paths with Bob during his 30 year career with SCS.</p> <p>After spending three years in the Air Force in WWII and graduating from Perdue University in Engineering, he started his career in 1949 in his birth state, Indiana. He progressed up the career ladder moving from a student trainee to a soil conservationist, district conservationist, and area conservationist, all in Indiana. Bob transferred to Auburn, Alabama, as the Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in 1960. In 1965, he became the Assistant for Operations in Alabama. Bob continued on his upward career path by serving as the State Conservationist in West Virginia (1967 - 1970). He completed his successful career as the State Conservationist in Ohio (1970 - 1979).</p> <p>Although it may seem that life was all about work, Bob, in fact, was married to Maxine for the entirety of his SCS career. In June 2008, they'll celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They are proud parents of a son and daughter and also have two grandsons. Bob enjoys very good health. He and Maxine live in Lakeport, Florida, and are active in church and yard work. He has taken 14 trips to South America, fishing for huge Peacock bass. The picture below shows Bob holding his catch, a monster peacock, on the Amazon River, Brazil, South America.</p>  <p>Bob Quilliam with Amazonian Peacock Bass, Brazil</p>
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Spears	M. J. "Whitey"	2008	<p>M. J. "Whitey" Spears joined the ranks of Senior Conservationist in March of 2007. He resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, with his wife, Amy. Whitey has been the Arkansas State Representative for ARSCSE since its inception. He'll be chairing his 23rd consecutive annual meeting of SCS/NRCS retirees in Arkansas in September 2008. What dedication!</p> <p>Whitey's career with SCS involved several moves and different job positions as he worked his way up the career ladder. Many of you have probably worked with, or been acquainted with, Whitey. A quick summary of his SCS career follows.</p> <p>1949 – 1964, Soil Scientist, District Conservationist, Agronomist, Area Conservationist Texas (several locations) 1964 – 1970, Assistant State Conservationist, South Dakota 1970 – 1973, Deputy State Conservationist, Texas 1973 – 1981, State Conservationist, Arkansas</p> <p>Since retirement in December 1980, Whitey has kept busy. He managed 3 family estates as the executor, served on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for 1 ½ years, kept up with his yard work, and strengthened his relationships with family and friends.</p> <p>Whitey humbly reports that he's "doing fine." He still walks 18 holes of golf twice a week. "If you've got your health, you've just about got everything," states Whitey; and I'm sure you all agree.</p>
Sturgill	Harold C.	2008	<p>Harold C. Sturgill is representative of so many of our loyal, hard-working field employees. His career with SCS began in 1966 in Viroqua (Vernon County), Wisconsin. He worked all of his years of service with SCS in the same community until his retirement in 1981. He was a Conservation Technician, the backbone of the SCS field delivery system in those days.</p> <p>Harold was an experienced man when he came to SCS. Born in Ashland, West Virginia, he had already mined coal for 25 years in his home state. He served a stint in the U.S. Army during World War II. In addition, he owned the Washington Street Texaco Station in Bluefield, West Virginia, for about 5 years. I understand that it was a predecessor to today's convenience stores, something called "jot 'em down store."</p> <p>He has lived a quiet life in Viroqua since retirement. He was widowed about 15 years ago. Harold loves to tell stories about his coal mining days in West Virginia. He also has a great sense of humor and can discuss most any topic. He listens to the radio about 90 percent of the time and TV the rest, preferring public radio, TV news programs, and religious shows.</p> <p>At 89 years young, Harold's health is good. He has limited vision in one eye due to macular degeneration. His other eye lost sight in the mid-1950s. Not one to let a physical disability change who he is, he is</p>

			<p>ever positive on life and everything around him. He even goes out for a short walk each night after dark settles in. He claims he sees better at night.</p> 															
Bloom	Elias (Eli)	2007	<p>Elias (Eli) Bloom retired in December 1990, where he was the Head of the Engineering Design Staff in the Indiana State Office, Indianapolis, Indiana. Perhaps Eli's lifelong desire to learn was ingrained during his youth in New York City, where he was born and raised. After high school graduation, he ventured west for further education. His formal education was interrupted by 33 months of active duty in the US Army, which included 17 months in Europe. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from Kansas State University in 1947. He later pursued graduate studies at Iowa State University in structural design (1959-1960), and he earned a law degree in 1976 from Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis.</p> <p>His interesting and successful career with SCS was:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>1948-1959</td> <td>Sioux City, Iowa</td> <td>Field Survey Engineer;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>then Project Engineer</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1959-1960</td> <td>Des Moines, Iowa</td> <td>Design Engineer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1960-1962</td> <td>Milwaukee, Wisconsin</td> <td>Structural Engineer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1962-1990</td> <td>Indianapolis, Indiana</td> <td>Head, Engineering Design Staff</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Eli returned to SCS as an Earth Team volunteer from 1990 to 1992. Can you believe that he organized the Engineering Design files?! He states that this was something that he wanted to get done while he was Head of the unit but never had enough time.</p> <p>On the personal side, Eli has been married to Marilyn for over 60 years. They continue to live in Indianapolis. They have a son (living in</p>	1948-1959	Sioux City, Iowa	Field Survey Engineer;	then Project Engineer			1959-1960	Des Moines, Iowa	Design Engineer	1960-1962	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Structural Engineer	1962-1990	Indianapolis, Indiana	Head, Engineering Design Staff
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Florida) and two daughters (one in Colorado and one in Ohio). They also have three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. All great grandchildren live in Alaska. Eli has been active and successful in a variety of areas outside of SCS. For instance, he retired in 1983 from the US Naval Reserves as a Captain, Civil Engineer Corps, USNR, after 32 years of service. He has received numerous awards from the State of Indiana, conservation organizations, and in 2005 from the Washington Township Fire Department.

He continues working in his office as a part-time attorney and provider of engineering and consulting services. He reports that his health is generally good except for his eyes. He has macular degeneration. And is unable to drive. He is able to use special equipment that enlarges images. He appreciates Marilyn's assistance as his chauffeur and check writer.

Dansdill	Bob	2007	<p>Bob Dansdill, turned 90 years young on November 7, 2006. He is looking forward to becoming an Honorary Member of ARSCSE when he becomes 91 years of age. Bob started his career with SCS in 1938 and ended his successful federal career in 1979 as the Assistant State Soil Scientist for Colorado.</p>  <p>Bob was always a Soil Scientist for the agency and served in the Dust Bowl Region #6 Soil Survey in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. He proudly recalls one of the highlights of his career was in 1978 when Mel Davis, SCS Chief presented him with the last of many of his Performance Awards. In addition to his outstanding performance being awarded, he was presented numerous awards for his suggestions.</p> <p>When Bob Dansdill celebrated his 90th birthday, he received over 80 cards and letters. They brought back many memories from his school days, WW II Navy days, and his 41 years with SCS. Bob has a daughter, Pat, a son-in-law Gary Cottrell, and two grandsons, Brad and Perry. Bob enjoys excellent health, is an active member of the Colorado ARSCSE group, and drives himself everywhere in the city. He enjoys</p>
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gardening and reading in his spare time. If you'd like to drop Bob a note, his address is: 3548 So. Fundy Ct, Aurora, CO 80013.

Fox	Roy L.	<p>2007</p> <p>Former Oregon State Conservation Engineer, Roy L. Fox, now 86, is a native of South Dakota (SD). Mr. Fox received a Civil Engineering degree from the SD School of Mines in 1943. Thereafter, he spent three years as an officer in the Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy. After the war he spent a short time with the U S Bureau of Reclamation before transferring to USDA-SCS.</p> <p>His 30-year career with SCS spanned from 1947 to 1977. His career prior to becoming the State Conservation Engineer in 1964 included the following positions and locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Engineer, Mirage Flats, Nebraska Acting Project Engineer, Buffalo Rapids, Montana Project Engineer, Eden Valley, Wyoming Engineering Specialist, Western Oregon USDA Party Leader, Oregon Rivers Basin Survey Ass't State Conservation Engineer, Oregon USDA Party Leader, Willamette River Basin Survey <p>Mr. Fox states that during his career he was privileged to work with many great people on a number of interesting and worthwhile projects. Two of his fondest memories are having worked for Dwight S. McVicker in both the Navy and SCS and his good fortune to have had Jack Phelan as a trainer and boss on his first SCS job in Hay Springs, Nebraska. He believes that his most important assignment with SCS was serving on the committee that formulated and guided the preparation of the SCS National Engineering Field manual. During retirement, Mr. Fox continues to enjoy fly fishing, amateur radio operations, and working with computers. He lives in Salem, Oregon. He has one son, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.</p>
Menear	Walter Calvin	<p>2007</p> <p>Walter Calvin Menear may be the one and only retired Auto Mechanic in the honorable ranks of the 400-plus Senior Conservationists. He was formerly trained at the University of Oklahoma's Technical Center, in Norman, Oklahoma. Walter was the SCS Auto Mechanic for all of the SCS vehicles in West Virginia. Many of our younger retirees and current NRCS employees may not be aware that such a position existed many years ago. Shortly after Walter retired in 1978, the vehicle maintenance work was performed by non-federal workers through the federal procurement process. I understand that the Auto Mechanics like Walter were welcomed by employees and that they were really appreciated for the help they gave. Thank you, Walter, for supporting the conservation work that needed to be performed!</p> <p>After retirement, Walter kept himself busy with wood working, teaching defensive driving, and gardening. He also loved going to flea markets. He has two daughters, three granddaughters, and nine great grandchildren. Geraldine Menear, Walter's wife, reports that Walter is not in very good physical health these days; however, he'd love to hear</p>

			<p>from you. If you'd like to drop Walter a note or a card, his address is Guardian Care Nursing Home, PO Box 430, Kenansville, NC 28349. Geraldine recently broke her hip. She is recovering at Guardian Care where she is able to keep close watch on Walter.</p>
Newberger	George J.	2007	<p>I continue to be honored to bring you just a small sample of the lives of our many Senior Conservationists. George J. Newberger was awarded the ARCSE 2006 President's Award for Outstanding Community Service. His life activities reflect a commitment to family, agriculture, conservation, and community.</p> <p>George has spent most of his life in his birth state, Ohio. However, while serving in the Army Air Corps in Moorhead, MN, in 1943, he met his spouse, Helen. He and Helen also lived in North Dakota for a few years (1950-1952) while he taught institutional on-farm training with a group of ex-GIs. Before starting his SCS career in 1954, George received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University. He also spent 4 years in his home county of Portage, Ohio, as a dairy farmer.</p> <p>During his 28 years with SCS in Ohio, George worked as a Soil Conservationist in Portage and Trumbull Counties. He then worked as a District Conservationist in Geauga, Wyandot, and Ross Counties. George and Helen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September 2007. George's sister and her husband co-celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the same time. It was a great renewal for family and friends!</p>



George and Helen Newberger

George says that he keeps healthy by doing his own lawn and garden care plus golfing. It seems to me that he has been pretty busy with a few other things. He does woodworking in the field of Shaker design. He currently specializes in Shaker oval boxes, trays, and carriers. George has been active in the Dahlia Society of Ohio. He even put his woodworking skills to use by making 35 award plaques for the American Dahlia Society Annual Show that was held in Ohio in 2003. George has also been active in the Ohio Bluebird Society as a trustee and coordinator. He maintains a 35-box Bluebird trail and fledged 75 Bluebirds in 2006.

Bittner	Elmer M.	2006	<p>Elmer M. Bittner of Mesa, Arizona, is our featured Senior Conservationist. He was born in Munich, North Dakota. He farmed prior to joining SCS in 1949. He put in his years of service with SCS in North Dakota, retiring in 1979, while working as an Engineering Technician in Grafton, North Dakota. He joined SCS as a Conservation Technician. He continued in that capacity until June 1965 (16 years). He then converted to the Engineering Technician field, working on watershed projects until his retirement (another 14 years).</p> <p>After retirement from SCS, Elmer worked for 10 years in the insurance industry. Most recently, he worked for 10 years in the car rental business. When he has time, Elmer enjoys working with stained glass</p>
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			<p>and volunteering with St. Mary Magdalene Church. He is most proud of his 59 plus years of marriage to DeLoris, their 5 children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.</p> <p>The Chronicler noted that Elmer has a meaningful email address. It reflects the pride Elmer must feel for 30 years of conservation and engineering technician service with SCS. It is "oldinspector1@cox.net."</p>														
Hilliard	Robert	2006	<p>Former State Conservationist, Robert (Bob) Hilliard, now 83, is our featured Senior Conservationist. His 33-year career with SCS spanned from 1947 to 1980. His career path included the following positions and locations:</p> <table> <tr><td>Engineering Aid</td><td>Hillsboro, Ohio</td></tr> <tr><td>Soil Conservationist</td><td>Wooster, Ohio</td></tr> <tr><td>District Conservationist</td><td>Mansfield, Ohio</td></tr> <tr><td>Area Conservationist</td><td>Albany, Ohio</td></tr> <tr><td>Assistant State Conservationist</td><td>Madison, Wisconsin</td></tr> <tr><td>State Conservationist</td><td>Storrs, Connecticut</td></tr> <tr><td>State Conservationist</td><td>Syracuse, New York</td></tr> </table> <p>Many of you have probably crossed paths with Bob and/or his wife of 55 years, Peg. Unfortunately, lung cancer claimed Peg in 2001.</p> <p>Some of you have shared with me a few stories about Bob. For this newsletter; however, I'll only share a story that Bob shared with me on his application to become a Senior Conservationist. Bob was a new Soil Conservationist in Wooster, Ohio, when the Chief, H.H. Bennett himself, stopped into the local SCS office prior to speaking at a World Plowing contest and farm make-over event. Bob heard the Chief ask if there were any brick streets in Wooster. The Chief said that he had a collection of bricks from many cities and towns. Bob volunteered to look for a brick on the street where he lived to try and find one that was stamped with the city name. The next morning, Bob presented the Chief with a new brick for his collection. The Chief was pleased and asked for his name. Bob states, "Boy, did I ever feel that I belonged to SCS."</p> <p>As to Bob's current activities, he states that they are not too complex. He tries to maintain his house and yard, enjoy the grandkids, travel to Alaska and the outer Banks, winter on the Gulf coast in Texas, and enjoy his full-time girl friend. He enjoys reading the ARSCSE newsletter and appreciates the many volunteers who make it wonderful reading material.</p>	Engineering Aid	Hillsboro, Ohio	Soil Conservationist	Wooster, Ohio	District Conservationist	Mansfield, Ohio	Area Conservationist	Albany, Ohio	Assistant State Conservationist	Madison, Wisconsin	State Conservationist	Storrs, Connecticut	State Conservationist	Syracuse, New York
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McManus	Kenneth G.	2006	<p>Kenneth G. McManus, now 84, is our featured Senior Conservationist. Kenneth ended his successful federal career in 1981 as the State Conservationist in Columbia, Missouri.</p> <p>Prior to working in Missouri, Kenneth was busy working his way up the SCS career ladder in several different jobs and locations. He began his career in Michigan after working as an Agricultural Teacher in Almont, Michigan. The jobs he performed for SCS in Michigan included District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, State Resource Conservationist, and Assistant State Conservationist. He then relocated to Iowa as the Deputy State Conservationist. Moving yet again, he worked as the Assistant Director at the South Technical Service Center in Ft. Worth, Texas.</p> <p>Kenneth and his wife, Lois moved to Sun City West, an Arizona retirement community, after retiring from SCS. They stayed busy, including traveling the USA. He and Lois celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1992 with a trip to England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. He golfs, reads, and serves on the golf committee for the Sun City West Recreation Center. Kenneth reports that his health is good. Unfortunately, his spouse, Lois passed away November 17, 2005. He devoted six years to taking care of her. He has one son, one daughter, and 3 grandchildren. If you'd like to drop Kenneth a note, his email address is texeban@cox.net.</p>
Schwoegler	James E.	2006	<p>James E. Schwoegler of Verona, Wisconsin, is our featured Senior Conservationist. He retired in 1980 with over 30 years of federal service. James served for 33 months in the military during World War II, including being on 21 missions over Japan as a radio operator on a B-29 Superfort. Also of interest is that he participated in a mass flyover in August, 1945, when the peace treaty was being signed on the Battleship Missouri.</p> <p>His career with SCS began as a trainee in Baraboo, WI, in 1948. He graduated from the University of WI in 1949 with a BS in Agriculture. He continued working his way up the traditional conservationist career ladder, moving to different jobs in different cities in WI. He held his initial DC position in 1957 and his first AC position in 1967. He ended his SCS career as the AC in Madison, WI.</p> <p>After retirement from SCS, James worked for 10 years as the Head of Maintenance, Laundry, and Housekeeping at a nursing home in Verona, WI. He was also the Director of the Verona Senior Center for 5 years. When he has the time, he enjoys repairing broken ceramics as a hobby.</p> <p>James has been married to Shirley since 1948. They have 1 son, 6 daughters, and 12 grandchildren. He describes his health as "fair to middling."</p>

Yelverton	Mary Alice	2006	<p>Mary Alice Yelverton, retired from civil service in 1951. She had worked for the U.S. Air Force and then as an Accounting Clerk at the SCS Regional Office, Ft. Worth, Texas. Unlike most members of ARSCSE, Mary Alice was a youthful 30 years of age when she left civil service. She has had over 50 years since then in which to be involved in life activities.</p> <p>The now 84 year old has led an active, family and community-oriented life, like so many SCS/ NRCS retirees. Read on to learn about just a few of her talents and accomplishments.</p> <p>Mary Alice married Carl in 1954 and stayed that way for over 47 years until Carl passed away in September 2001. They raised two children in Boerne (Kendall County), Texas. They are now adults living in Texas with their own families. Mary Alice and Carl were very active in their children's activities during their school years - room mother, scout leaders, coaches of baseball teams, and field trip chaperones.</p> <p>Mary Alice and her daughter won the first mother/daughter tennis tournament at Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club. Mary Alice also won many blue ribbons and Best of Show awards for her prized homemade pickles and preserves at the Kendall County Fair. She has been entertaining readers of The Boerne Star newspaper for over two decades. Her column, Mary Alice's Potpourri, is a collection of miscellaneous news and feature items that are of interest to area residents. The newspaper claims that their readership continues to grow, much as a result of Mary Alice's charming columns.</p> <p>Finally, Mary Alice has had a lifelong interest in stars and celebrities. She has met with or corresponded with Cheryl Ladd, Alice Faye, William Holden, Ben Hogan, Katherine Hepburn, and many others. She shares her interactions with the stars and celebrities as part of her newspaper columns. Mary Alice is in very good health and states that "life is good."</p>
Bondurant	Dewey T.	2005	<p>Dewey T. Bondurant, retired from his job as Iowa's State Conservation Engineer, in 1980. During his 30-plus years of service, he worked throughout the State of Iowa, ending his federal career in Des Moines. Mr. Bondurant also served 5 years of military service with the U.S. Army from 1940 - 1945. He touched many lives during his successful 35 years of federal service. He chose to work as an Income Tax Preparer for H & R Block for about 12 years after leaving federal service. During that period, he was honored by the Internal Revenue Service with the title of Enrolled Agent.</p> <p>Mr. Bondurant was widowed in 1997, when his spouse of 48 years, M. Georgia Slavik, died. They were blessed with 2 sons and 1 daughter. His family has been expanded with 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He continues to reside in Des Moines, where he retired. He enjoys gardening, a weekly line-dance session with a senior citizen</p>

			<p>group, and preserving jams and jellies. Mr. Bondurant has exhibited his preserves at the Iowa State Fair and won numerous ribbons.</p> <p>In Mr. Bondurant's application for Senior Conservationist status, he admitted being in "good health but a little over weight." Most Americans can relate to the weight problem; however, not many of us know how to preserve award-winning jams and jellies. Keep up the good work, Mr. Bondurant!</p>
Borst	George	2005	<p>George Borst, retired Soil Scientist, served USDA for over 31 years, primarily in the State of California. The widower resides in Fallbrook, California, and is the father of two sons and one daughter. He is now 93 years of age. Between 1936 and 1942, George worked as a soil surveyor and soil technologist with USDA. He was attached to mobile survey parties in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas.</p> <p>A few of George's professional experiences since retirement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party leader or advisor for soil surveys for Western Ecological Services Company, San Rafael, California. • Party leader for H. Ismaili Associates, Berkeley, California. • Party leader for Woodward-Clyde Consultants. <p>Since retiring in 1969, George has been active in many professional organizations. He also has authored or co-authored over 25 publications. His work has primarily supported California's agricultural industry, especially the avocado industry. George reports that his health is "reasonably good but with impaired vision." He continues to enjoy classical music.</p>
Brost	Kenneth E.	2005	<p>Kenneth E. Brost, former Contract Specialist, SCS, Wisconsin State Office, was just added to the distinguished list of Senior Conservationists in May 2005. At 87 years young, he has led an interesting life. He has been sharing his life with wife, Jean, since 1946. They have 1 son, 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.</p> <p>Prior to his civilian federal career, Mr. Brost served a tour in the U.S. Navy (1942-1946). He also worked as a claims adjusters, manager, and agency director for State Farm Insurance Company (1952-1964). He began his career with SCS in 1966. Mr. Brost retired from SCS in 1979. He dusted off the J.D. he earned from the University of Wisconsin in 1952 and began doing legal work in real estate management. He continued doing so until 2000. His excellent health permits Mr. Brost to perform volunteer work at church and with AARP in tax aid for the elderly. He also enjoys golfing, swimming, travel, ice skating, gardening, and reading.</p>

Dittfurth	Lillie W.	2005	<p>Prior to becoming a federal employee, Lillie W. Dittfurth was the office manager for her family's dairy facility, Pilot Knob Dairy Farm, in Putnam County, Tennessee. Her federal work experience included working for the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. during WWII and then for SCS and ASCS in Tennessee. She specialized in secretarial work at the Cookeville Area Office and the SCS and ASCS Tennessee State Offices in Nashville.</p> <p>Prior to marrying Alvin (Buck) Dittfurth, she was married to Earl Burgess for 30 years, until his passing. Married to Buck since 1979, he is also a retired SCS employee. They now reside in Athens, Texas. After retirement from the federal government, Ms. Dittfurth became an office manager at Music Country Realty (1982 - 1990), Brentwood, Tennessee. The realtors were all retired SCS employees - Donald C. Bivens, Billy Headden, and John A. Walker.</p> <p>Do you get the feeling that Ms. Dittfurth gets along real swell with retired SCS employees?! She also volunteers with her church, works on crafts and gardening, and participates in Beta Sigma Phi Sorority activities.</p>
Hayden	Rodney V.	2005	<p>Rodney V. Hayden, retired District Conservationist, was employed by SCS for about 20 years, all in the State of Ohio. After his initial 3 years with SCS (1952 - 1955), he took an eleven-year break to do what he really wanted to do - farm. After retirement in 1982, he again had the opportunity to farm, this time as a tree farmer. Rodney and his wife, Marie, enjoy life on the farm in Howard, Ohio. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2004; and Rodney states, "It has been a wonderful marriage. We get along well."</p> <p>Until 1996, they operated the 100-acre Christmas tree operation in partnership with their son and daughter-in-law. Their son and daughter-in-law now own and operate the tree farm. There is still plenty of work for Rodney -- about 5 acres of mowing to complete during the summer months and maintaining their farm home (located on the tree farm). Rodney humbly states that "SCS made my life richer by adding greatly to my experiences. I had a lot of help along the way."</p>
Ziebell	Martin G.	2005	<p>Martin G. Ziebell, 84, retired as District Conservationist, Stillwater, Minnesota in 1983. His SCS career began as an SCS trainee and Soil Scientist in New York -- Plattsburg and then Lowville. He continued in his career as a Soil Conservationist in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Besides working for SCS, Martin also worked as a meat cutter, salesman, and military serviceman. He served in World War II in India, Burma, and China. After retirement Martin has had more time to serve as a church elder. His hobbies include photography, travel, gardening, and attending music concerts.</p>

			<p>In 1999, he and wife, Gertrude, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three daughters and three grandchildren. He reports that his health is "okay for my age."</p>
Bahr	Albert Francis	2004	<p>Albert Francis Bahr just-turned 90 years old. He retired from SCS as a Soil Correlator in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1973. During his SCS career, Mr. Bahr also held positions as soil scientist, party leader, survey supervisor, and assistant state soil scientist. Mr. Bahr and his spouse, Louie Jean Miner, have been married for over 50 years. They live in Orem, Utah. They have 6 children, 60 grandchildren, and 64 great-grandchildren. His interest in family history led to him serving as a guide-supervisor in the family history (genealogy) library in Salt Lake City, Utah. He serves as a consultant to The Thomas Minor Society and The Albert A. Bahr family organizations.</p> <p>In Mr. and Mrs. Bahr's opinion, "there is not a greater reward than to see someone progress and succeed." Their accomplishments support this philosophy. For instance, he has served as a leader of 2 Boy Scout National Jamboree events. He and Mrs. Bahr served 2 eighteen-month service missions for their church. One was in Maine and New Hampshire. The other mission site was in Eagle Pass, Texas. They were able to organize a Boy Scout troop. At least 5 Eagle Scouts resulted from their efforts. Four of the 5 have now graduated from college.</p>
Bolton	John D.	2004	<p>Senior Conservationist John D. Bolton, 86, recently provided me with an interesting chronicle of his life. He admitted having to comb through a lot of old files to dig out the dates and information. Although he apologized for the "old fingers" writing, I found his printing to be neat and easy to read.</p> <p>Mr. Bolton was born, and lived nearly most of his life, in Georgia. He entered the US Air Corps (later renamed the US Air Force) in 1942 and then joined the Air Force Reserve at the end of WWII. Serving in World War II (WWII) and the Korean War took him to far away places like the China-Burma-India theater. He earned much recognition during his years of service to USA.</p> <p>He remembers helping his dad on the family farm and having been an enrollee in the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 before becoming a conservation aide with the Soil Erosion Service in 1939. After the wars, Mr. Bolton worked for Soil Conservation Service and went to college until he earned his BSA degree from the University of Georgia. After a fine 30-year federal career, he retired in 1975. Retired probably isn't a good word for his busy life. He still operates a large diesel</p>

			<p>tractor and a smaller Ford 8H tractor, mostly maintaining pastures. He works a large vegetable garden and shares the bounty with others.</p> <p>Mr. Bolton's praise of retired SCS employees and their spouses is extreme. In his own words, "I just think SCS is the greatest! I have nothing but gratitude for all of the wonderful men and women of several racial backgrounds. Most enjoyable are the quarterly retiree meetings at restaurants."</p>
Boyd	Hurshel E.	2004	<p>Hurshel E. Boyd lives in a heavenly-sounding community called Messiah Village in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He was born near Seneca, New Mexico, in 1920 to a farming family; however, his family moved to Kansas when he was just a few months old after a hailstorm completely destroyed his dad's crops. His higher education at Kansas State College was interrupted by his enlistment in the US Army Air Corps (1942 - 1946). Upon returning to civilian life, he worked part-time as a Conservation Aid in Lyons, Kansas, until he re-entered school at Kansas State (K-State) in Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Boyd graduated from K-State in 1948 and began full-time employment with SCS as a Farm Planner. He became a District Conservationist a year later in Hiawatha, Kansas.</p> <p>His career took him to Washington, D.C., in 1956, to the Watershed-Program Management Section. In 1959 he transferred to Oklahoma as an Area Conservationist. That was followed by his final assignment in 1963 to the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and Management position in Pennsylvania. He retired from that job in 1977, with a total of 33 years and 5 months of military and civilian service. Mr. Boyd and his spouse, Rosann, have been married for over 56 years. They have 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. They're busy in retirement with many church activities; cruises to places like Alaska, the Mediterranean, the Panama Canal, and the Caribbean; and a trip to China.</p>
Huxtable	Ray R.	2004	<p>Like so many of our senior conservationists, Ray R. Huxtable, enjoys reading about old friends. He hopes that some of those old friends might be interested in reading about him. So, a little information about Mr. Huxtable follows.</p> <p>He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from South Dakota State University in 1942. He married Nelvyna in January 1943. About the time the newsletter hits your mail box, they will be celebrating another wedding anniversary. The early years of Mr. Huxtable's career with SCS (1942 - 1967) were spent in various parts of South Dakota. Utilizing his engineering knowledge and leadership skills, he worked on watershed and river basin planning activities. He then moved to Reno,</p>

			<p>Nevada, in 1967, and became an Assistant State Conservationist. He retired in 1976, continuing to reside in Henderson, Nevada.</p> <p>Besides his career with Department of Agriculture, Mr. Huxtable invested several years with the Army. He served 4 years on active duty and 18 years in the National Guard. He has been a faithful supporter of SWCS, having been Chapter presidents in both South Dakota and Nevada. He also has chaired the Chapter of NARFE in Reno. At the conclusion of his career with SCS, Mr. Huxtable served on the Washee-Story Conservation District Board (1977-1995). He was the Chairman of the Board for 9 of those years.</p> <p>As you can see by the above accomplishments, Mr. Huxtable is a respectable member of the Senior Conservationist group.</p>
Jones	John Maynard	2004	<p>John Maynard Jones retired in 1973. He began his career with Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1942 in North Carolina. Mr. Jones worked as a soil conservationist in North Carolina during his career. He did have a two and one-half year break in service to serve in the Air Force from 1943 to 1945. Prior to starting his career with SCS, Mr. Jones attended A&T State University in North Carolina. After graduating in 1938, he worked as a teacher and principal at an elementary school in North Carolina. Mr. Jones married Mattie in 1941. They had a son and daughter and now 2 grand children. Mattie and Mr. Jones celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2001.</p> <p>After retiring from SCS, Mr. Jones worked in the Library Circulation Department at Duke University. That employment covered a 12-year period. Somehow he managed to make time for golf and gardening, his hobbies. These activities continued after his final work retirement from Duke University in 1986. His health is reportedly good. With nearly 90 years under his belt, Mr. Jones has experienced a full, interesting life. We thank him for sharing part of it with us.</p>
Ferentchak	Frank	2003	<p>Frank Ferentchak, along with his wife of over 40 years, Elaine, spend their summers in Diamondville, Wyoming, and their winters in Mesa, Arizona. He describes his health as "probably good for my age." His hobbies and activities include gun smithing, hunting, building log cabins from scratch, plus playing tennis and sometimes golf.</p> <p>Frank's career with SCS (1952-1976) included being an area engineer in western Wyoming and holding many leadership positions in Montana (watershed planning engineer, irrigation and drainage engineer, river basin and watershed staff leader, and assistant for water resources). In 1963 and 1964, Frank made two trips to Venezuela as an irrigation and drainage consultant to the Director of Public Works. He served as a consultant on several large irrigation and drainage projects greater than 200,000 acres. In his "spare time at night," he prepared an irrigation handbook in metric. The locals received Brazil's 1965</p>

			<p>Society of Agricultural Engineering award of the year with the help of the irrigation handbook.</p> <p>The “overseas bug” must have bitten Frank. After retirement from federal service, he applied his irrigation engineering skills on several overseas’ consulting projects. From 1976 - 1979, he served as a consultant to the Ministry of Swaziland. In 1980 -1982, he provided irrigation and drainage services in Guyana. He again consulted on large projects in Swaziland from 1982 - 1983. In 1985, he worked on projects in Pakistan. The impact of his labors has been immense - improved water management and healthier people around the world.</p>
Gile	Leland H.	2003	<p>Leland H. Gile earned a Teaching Certificate before serving in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. About a year later, in 1946, he began working for the Soil Conservation Service as a Conservation Aid in his birth state, Maine. Leland took a break from the Soil Conservation Service to seek higher education in agronomy at the University of Maine and in soils at the University of Wisconsin. He also worked at Cornell University, instructing students in mapping soils and making soil profile descriptions. These experiences groomed him for his lifelong interest in the soil science field.</p> <p>The Soil Conservation Service was fortunate to have Leland return in 1955, and he continued that employment until he retired in Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1976. He is highly regarded in academia, has become a distinguished international researcher and author in the soil science field, and is a member of multiple professional societies in his field of expertise. One of his recent accomplishments has been as an Earth Team Volunteer. A volunteer since 1987, he received the 2001 West Regional Earth Team Volunteer Award for his support of the conservation movement. Leland has resided in Las Cruces, New Mexico, since retirement. In good health, he continues reading, writing, and studying soils and soil-geomorphology.</p>
Huntley	Mark B.	2003	<p>Mark B. Huntley, retired District Conservationist, served SCS in the State of Iowa for over 35 years. His work as a District Conservationist started when the Conservation District was formed in Guthrie Center. From there he moved to Mason City as the District Conservationist and later in Garner. When the request came for him to transfer to Iowa Falls, he decided to retire.</p> <p>World War II intervened early in his career, with Mark becoming a trained cryptographer. He notes, however, that he actually spent more time working on construction projects in New Guinea and the Philippines.</p> <p>Mark remembers back to his CCC days in Centerville, Iowa, in 1935. His crews built several dams and permanent structures and planted trees. When he returned to several of the CCC projects in the early</p>

			<p>1990's, all of the permanent structures were still functioning but many of the plantings had not been maintained. He has resided in Colorado for the last 8 years, wanting to be close to family members. His wife, Doris, passed away in 1985. Mark will be 97 years of age in October, and is in good health.</p>
Matthews	Richard M.	2003	<p>Richard M. Matthews, along with his wife of 57 years, Milly, have touched many lives. They are both decorated veterans of World War II - Milly in the Navy and Richard in the Army Air Force. Perhaps their greatest joint accomplishments are linked to their four children, all adopted. Richard and Milly now live in Vancouver, Washington. Their children live in Alabama, South Carolina, and Texas. Their family has grown with the addition of 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.</p> <p>Richard began his career with SCS in 1951 as a civil engineer trainee in the regional office in Lincoln, Nebraska. He successfully progressed in his career at the following locations - Beltsville, Maryland; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Auburn, Alabama, Fort Worth, Texas, and finally Portland, Oregon. He retired in 1980 from the West Technical Service Center as the Regional Design Engineer and Head of the Design Section. After retirement from federal service, Richard devoted his time "to the home front," in his words. Travel and spectator sports are also enjoyed. He is in excellent health, and Milly is doing well with a second battle with cancer.</p>
Paul	George	2003	<p>George Paul retired in 1976 with over 32 years of service and numerous awards and citations. He worked as a Soil Conservation Technician in various Soil Conservation Districts throughout North Dakota. Born in St. Anthony, North Dakota; he now resides in Linton, North Dakota, in good health. After retirement from federal service, George drove school buses in his hometown. He completed this service in 1990.</p> <p>George has supported many organizations and communities throughout his life. For instance, he has been a church usher for many years at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and others parishes. He is a Charter Life member of the Catholic Order of Knights of Columbus. He has been a continuous member of the American Legion for over 57 years. He is a past Post Commander of the American Legion in Linton. He also served as Post Adjutant and Chaplain of the Dan R. Richardson Post #54. He and wife, Frances, are proud parents of 2 sons and 2 daughters; grandparents to 10; and great grandparents to 3. We applaud their accomplishments in their 59+ years of marriage!</p>

Schultz	Gilbert A.	2003	<p>Gilbert A. Schultz, 85, retired as State Administrative Officer (SAO), St. Paul, Minnesota. Gilbert was the SAO for Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Minnesota for 10 years before retiring in 1974. His federal government career began on November 6, 1936, with USDA's Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, which was absorbed by SCS in 1939. At some point, he also put in 30 days with the Civilian Conservation Corps. He took a detour from SCS in 1956-1959 to work for Atomic Energy.</p> <p>SAO's touch many lives during their careers due to their administrative management responsibilities. Gilbert was no exception. Besides his routine accomplishments; however, he had one unique career accomplishment that needs mentioning. He negotiated the first modern-day union contract in USDA history. After retirement, Gilbert served for 9 years (1977-1986) as the treasurer or assistant treasurer for his church and school. He traveled and volunteered quite a bit, but he now admits to "mostly loafing." During our last communication with Gilbert, he stated that he had been married to Helen for over 50 years and that they had 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.</p>
Burgher	John K.	2002	<p>John K. Burgher's career as an Engineering Technician with Soil Conservation Service began in Quincy, Illinois in 1956 and ended with retirement in 1975 in Lincoln, Illinois. All of his service time was completed in Illinois, his current state of residence.</p> <p>Prior to John's federal career, he worked several years as a Morse Telegraph Operator with Western Union. After returning from the military service, he was hired by Standard Oil Pipeline as a telegraph operator.</p> <p>John enjoyed his federal career and recalls working with several fine employees in Illinois, including Joe Haas and Neil Bogner, just to name a few. He lives alone now (since the passing of his spouse 2 years ago), and appreciates old SCS friends when they come to visit.</p> <p>This 91-year-old conservation statesman shared a few bureaucratic statements that he says he heard many times while an SCS employee. "Are you working out of your classification?" "Will you move for an increase in pay?"</p>
Cope	Ray	2002	<p>This Elder Statesman was once referred to as "the dam repairman." Ray Cope, age 85, retired from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in May, 1987, while serving as a National Grouting Specialist stationed in the Emergency Watershed Program, Lincoln, Nebraska. His 15 years with SCS included a year at the New York State Office and 10 years with Conservation Engineering supporting work on dams and tunnels in Canada.</p> <p>Ray is a veteran of World War II, having served at Stalingrad and Normandy with the German Army. After retirement, Ray returned to work as a consulting engineer, specializing in dams. His wife,</p>

			Gabriele, died in 2000. He has 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. Ray continues to reside in Lincoln.
Doughty	Thomas E.	2002	<p>On September 12, 1935, Thomas E. Doughty, was appointed as Wyoming's first SEC/SCS employee. He developed the first land ownership map of Wyoming including identifying designated land use problem areas. The distinguished Conservation Statesman, now age 90, is honored in a publication celebrating 50 years of conservation in Wyoming.</p> <p>After nearly 30 years of service in Wyoming, Tom retired in 1964. He then resided in Spokane, Washington. His wife of 63 years, Maxine Weick, passed in 1996. In 2001, Tom moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, to be closer to his family. Tom has 3 sons, 1 daughter, and many grand and great grandchildren. He even has 1 great great grandchild. He remains interested in horticulture and is an active gardener.</p>
Freeman	John D.	2002	<p>John D. Freeman, retired Soil Conservationist, served SCS in the State of Arizona for over 35 years. He has resided in Prescott, Arizona, since retirement, with his wife, Norita. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2000. He is now 90 years of age.</p> <p>A few of John's honors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1956 - President, Society of Range Management - 1969 - Honored by Vietnamese government - 1983 - Recognized by Arizona Cattle Growers - 1990 - Building named in his honor (Yarapa County Fairgrounds) - 2002 - Danny Freeman Day named by Prescott, AZ Kiwanis
Innis	Charles H.	2002	<p>Charles H. Innis retired in June 1972, in Tiffin, Ohio, where he currently resides at Ruffing Family Care Center. He just celebrated his 90th birthday in September 2002. "Charlie" was in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), working in Ohio and Yellowstone National Park (1931-1940). He served in the U.S. Army (1940-1946), including World War II in an Engineer Pipeline Company in North Africa, Italy, and France. As a soil scientist with SCS, he worked in Jackson and Tiffin, Ohio.</p> <p>He was a talented musician and played the banjo in a small band in Jackson, Ohio. In addition, he was an avid "rock hound." Another interesting tidbit is that Charlie donated a fossilized peccary (pig) skeleton to Bowling Green State University. Charlie is a past member (Fellow) of the Ohio Academy of Sciences.</p>

Logan	Manford (Manny) A.	2002	<p>Eighty-six year-old Manford (Manny) A. Logan calls Mt. Vernon, Illinois, home; however, he says that he winters about 6 months of the year in Winter Haven, Florida. He shares his life with companion Louise Bean, a son (doctoring in Denver, CO), a daughter (teaching in Galesburg, IL), and a grandson (teaching at University of Texas, Austin, TX).</p> <p>Manny retired from Soil Conservation Service in 1974, after having worked as a District Conservationist in Ford and Iroquois Counties, Illinois. He then worked for Cooperative Extension Service for 3 years. As a field inspector for Certified Seed Growers, he worked in 5 counties for the Illinois Crop Improvement Association.</p> <p>Manny has a riddle for you -- What does Smokey the Bear, Attila the Hun, and Alexander the Great have in common?</p>
Selby	John N. (Jack)	2002	<p>John N. (Jack) Selby retired in 1994 with over 50 years of service. There was a big shindig at the Elk's Club in Accomac, VA to celebrate the occasion. It has been said that Jack touched just about everyone on the Eastern Shore in some way or another.</p> <p>After graduating from VA Polytechnic Institute in 1942, he worked with the U.S. Corps of Engineers for a year. His career with U.S.D.A. began in 1943. He worked as a soil and water conservationist from 1943 - 1977. As a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator between 1977 and his retirement, his name was more recognizable than the program he coordinated. Jack belongs to many organizations including being a master mason (over 50 years), a member of the RC&D Council, a retired member (22 years) of the VA National Guard, and a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (over 51 years).</p> <p>When last we heard, Jack was considering moving from his home in Onancock, VA, to the United Methodist Hermitage Home on the Eastern Shore. His wife of 60 years, Lee, was a resident in the Nursing Wing. He was going to be living on the Resident Wing.</p>
Fredregill	J. Ivan	2001	<p>One of our senior-most Elder Conservation Statesmen, J. Ivan Fredregill, retired from Soil Conservation Service in 1965 in Adel, Iowa. He was a Soil Conservationist during his career. In 1965, he also retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army. He has been married to Ruth since 1933. Together they have celebrated many wedding anniversaries, birthdays, and the birth of 5 children.</p> <p>At nearly 97 years of age, his health is moderately good but he no longer travels or visits farm shows. He does work in his yard and shop and attends church and community activities. As one of his granddaughters says, "He taught us how to live by his fine example."</p>

Virag	Helen M.	2001	<p>Helen M. Virag retired in June 1972, in Portland, Oregon, where she currently resides. Helen supported the Soil Conservation Service for over 35 years as a Secretary, touching many lives in many places along the way. She worked in the following cities in Michigan - Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Howell, and Battle Creek. She also worked in Dayton, Ohio, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her final transfer took her to Portland.</p> <p>Helen celebrated her 92nd birthday this year and describes herself as being in good health. She participates in swim and exercise classes and politics. She is a member of Northwest Pilot Project that is a local organization that finds housing, jobs, and supplies for low-income families. The Project also provides a free lunch and program once a month for its clients.</p>
Watts	Leonard	2001	<p>Leonard Watts, former Conservation Technician with Soil Conservation Service, currently resides in Leesburg, Ohio. During his years of employment (1954 - 1983), Leonard worked in several counties in Ohio, finishing his career in Fayette County, with 29 years of service.</p> <p>He is a life member of National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) and describes his health as "Let's just say I'm still going!" Leonard has been married to Edna for 62 years. They have 1 son, 2 grandsons, and 3 great grandchildren.</p> <p>Leonard not only keeps busy with the operation of his 100-acre home farm, but he plays a saxophone in a Senior Citizen Center band and in a 70-piece Washington County Community Band.</p> <p>At age 92, I'd say that Leonard is doing more than "just going!"</p>

Bacon	Sam	1994	<p>Once again, our very own Sam Bacon, Senior Conservationist, deserves our recognition. He has been highlighted in previous newsletters (1994 and 2002).</p> <p>Sam turned 102 on July 1, 2002. He was honored with a luncheon given by the Cumberland Art Society. According to the Herald-Citizen, "Approximately 60 people attended and were able to greet the active, alert and witty Mr. Sam, who doesn't like to talk about himself unless it's in regard to planning his next birthday party or about the five-mile walk he just completed for a fund-raising event." Through his donation of time and money, Sam has made a significant impact on the arts and politics in the Cookeville area. We also understand that Sam still delivers meals-on-wheels three days a week. Happy belated birthday, Sam!</p> <p>With the permission of Jill Thomas, writer for the Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, Tennessee, we are reprinting the story that she recently wrote about Sam Bacon. It follows.</p> <p>"Cookeville's Sam Bacon is 105." Jill Thomas, Herald-Citizen Staff</p> <p>When Cookevillian Sam Bacon was born, William McKinley was President of the United States. In Germany, the first zeppelin was launched and in South Carolina William and Orville Wright were experimenting with gliders. Seven cities in the US had just come together to form the American Association of Baseball Clubs -- later known as the American League.</p> <p>Bacon was born July 1, 1900, in Baltimore County in Maryland. Last week he celebrated his 105th birthday. Sam's life can be divided into three parts: his career in soil conservation, his career as a notions distributor and his career as a caregiver to his community. He graduated from the University of College Park in Maryland in 1924. He worked for the Agricultural Research Service starting in 1928. He continued with the Soil Erosion Service in North Carolina in 1935, and then came to Tennessee as a soil conservationist in 1945.</p> <p>After 35 years with the US Dept. of Agriculture, Sam retired in 1963. This month, on the day following Sam's birthday, Tennessee's Natural Resources Conservation Service honored Samuel R. Bacon as the USDA agency's senior former employee. "When our agency was first created, Samuel Bacon was already 35 years old," said Tennessee's State Conservationist James Ford. "Now, 70 years later, NRCS has grown and thrived because of the lasting legacy of dedicated people like Mr. Bacon." At the NRCS celebration, Ford presented Sam with copies of some of the soil surveys he authored during his tenure. When he wasn't working at his day job, Sam and his wife, Reba, both members of the First United Methodist Church of Cookeville, worked with dozens of charities and were instrumental in helping to establish the Cumberland Art Society. When he retired from the NRCS he began</p>
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a second career, spending the next 31 years distributing small items to retail stores.

When Sam was 90, Reba became ill and decided it was time for Sam to learn to cook. She died that year, but not before she had taught her husband how to care for himself. Her name is still listed with his in the telephone directory. When he was 91 Sam Bacon retired from his second business and began using his time to serve others. For more than 17 years he delivered Meals on Wheels (now called the UCHRA Nutritional Program for the Elderly) to seniors who were housebound, driving himself to their residences and distributing both hot food and welcome chit chat.

"Sam embodied the qualities that made that program work," said Linda Tramel who is the field services director for the 14 counties of Middle Tennessee. "He wanted to do this and he had both enthusiasm and consistency," she said. Sam was especially active with the Cookeville Senior Citizens' Center developing an exercise program for himself and helping others with their exercises. While he has stopped delivering Meals on Wheels, he still drives himself to visit the NRCS field office, to other sites around Cookeville and to visit friends.

When asked about the secret to longevity at his 100th birthday celebration, Bacon told Eunetta Jenkins that life is "about turning to the Bible if we are ever to have peace on this earth. It's about caring for your friends, your community and yourself." A couple of years ago Bacon came marching into the Herald Citizen office carrying a plastic grocery bag laden with fruit and vegetables from his garden. The weight of the bag made him list a little to the right, but Sam, at that time 103 years old, hefted the bag onto a conference table and removed the ripe produce. "I wanted to bring you something to say thanks for all you do for the community," he said.