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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President

Greetings,

As my tenure as President of ARCSE comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the board and collaborate with members across the country. I began my journey as President-Elect in July 2021, shortly after retiring from NRCS with over 36 years of service. This experience has been both rewarding and unforgettable.



During our time together, we accomplished significant milestones, including expanding our presence on social media with the creation of the ARCSE Facebook page and ARCSE Flickr account. We also developed our first-ever Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Work for ARCSE. Additionally, we signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)—one with NRCS and the other with NEW Solutions (ACES). A considerable amount of effort went into the MOU with NRCS, which focuses on launching a Mentor Program. We also held our first Membership Drive for ARCSE and recently introduced the ARCSE Musicians Project.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of the ARCSE Boards and the support of ARCSE members. It's truly incredible what we can accomplish when we work together. #GoTeam!

I want to extend my sincere thanks to **Chris Tippie** and **Paul Benedict** for leading the first-ever ARCSE Membership Drive. A special thank you to all the Members who participated in recruiting new Members. Please refer to the ARCSE membership report in this Newsletter for more details. One of ARCSE's recent initiatives is the SCS/NRCS Musicians Project, spearheaded by three ARCSE members: **Douglas Toews** (CA), **Dennis Clute** (TX), and **Bill Ward** (CA). Please read Bill Ward's California NRCS report for further details and to explore biographies of SCS/NRCS Musicians. You can find more information on the ARCSE website at <https://arcse.org/musicians/>.

Growing up on a small farm in Blanchardville, Wisconsin, music was an integral part of my community and school life. Like many of my classmates, I took advantage of opportunities to explore music and pursued that passion through my college years. However, as my professional career in conservation took priority, music gradually faded into the background. It wasn't until retirement that I was able to rekindle my love for it. Now, music has once again become a meaningful and fulfilling part of my daily life.



This Musicians' Project is a tribute to those, like me, who have dedicated their careers to conservation, while also carrying a deep passion for music. It celebrates the many talented individuals within the Soil Conservation Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and partner agencies who have balanced their professional commitments with artistic expression. Music and conservation may seem like different worlds, but both require creativity, discipline, and a profound appreciation for harmony—whether in sound or in nature.

May this collection of biographies serve as an inspiration, reminding us that no matter where life takes us, our passions remain a part of who we are.

With so much change happening in the NRCS these days, I encourage you to take a moment to express appreciation to current NRCS employees for their service. A few words of encouragement can go a long way, especially during times of transition.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Reading this Newsletter every two months is always a highlight for me as an ARCSE member. I enjoy learning about the incredible things our retirees are doing across the country. Thank you all for sharing your experiences!

Keep up the great work, my friends! It has been an honor to serve as the ARCSE President.

—Julie

Editor's note: Below are a few snapshots of some of the people who made Julie's tenure as President successful and productive.





Still Rooted —by Julie MacSwain

We served the land with steady hands,
Across the fields and forest stands.
Now in the calm of well-earned rest,
We gather still—our shared quest is blessed.

Through ARCSE, we stay in touch,
With those who gave and still give much.
Retired, yes—but not alone,
In conservation, we've found our home.



ARCSE is Meeting in Person and On-line at the SWCS Conference

—SWCS liaison Cheryl Simmons

Join your fellow ARCSE members for the annual meeting in Costa Mesa, CA on Monday afternoon, August 4th at 1:30pm Pacific Time. President **Julie MacSwain** will hand the gavel to in-coming President **Becky Fletcher**. Visiting in-person and online will highlight the event.

Membership, awards, and a light recap for 2024 and plans for 2025 will be shared. NRCS State and National Leaders have been invited and will discuss the many changes in USDA. See the Notes from the Potomac section below for more details on these changes. Local California conservation discussions will wrap up the meeting. The link to the ARCSE annual meeting will be listed on the SWCS annual program and the ARCSE website: <https://arcse.org/>.



An in-person Mentor Symposium will be on the SWCS Program for mid-Monday morning. Although the ARCSE get-together meeting is free, attendance at SWCS sessions and socials are subject to the Retiree fees. Go to the SWCS conference page to find out more. <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2025-annual-conference>.

New NRCS Chief

Aubrey Bettencourt was appointed as Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (March 21, 2025).

Aubrey Bettencourt serves as Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Aubrey is a prominent leader in agriculture, water, and sustainability, most recently serving as the Global Director of Government Relations and External Affairs for Netafim, an Orbia Company. Her previous roles include serving as President and CEO of the Almond Alliance and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior in the first Trump Administration. Her work reflects a strong commitment to water policy, agricultural support, and sustainable practices, supported by her family's farming roots in Kings County, California. Aubrey holds a degree in History from Westmont College.



NRCS' 90th Anniversary

—from Stuart Lee

Nearly a century ago, **Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett** stood before Congress, determined to change the course of history. With a dust storm darkening the skies over Washington, D.C., he refused to let lawmakers adjourn until they understood the crisis at hand. His relentless advocacy led to the passage of the Soil Conservation Act—forever transforming how we steward our land.

That same spirit of urgency and leadership must guide us today. Soil is more than dirt beneath our feet—it is the foundation of life, prosperity, and resilience. Through the science of soil conservation and the dedication of farmers and ranchers, we safeguard our nation's natural resources for generations to come.

Every acre enrolled in NRCS conservation programs is an investment in the future—a promise that clean water, fertile lands, and thriving ecosystems will endure. From precision agriculture to regenerative practices, producers across America are proving that conservation and productivity go hand in hand.

Now is the time to lead with vision, to champion the science of soil, and to empower those who feed, clothe, and sustain our nation. Let us rise to the challenge, just as Bennett did, and ensure that conservation remains at the heart of American agriculture.

Together, we don't just protect the land. Together, we are needed—You are needed—We help shape the future!

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

—Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS

President Donald Trump's First 100 days

The first 100 days of the second **Donald Trump** Presidency began on January 20th, 2025, the day he was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States. The first 100 days of Trump's presidential term is viewed by many as being similar to **Franklin D. Roosevelt's** first term in office. The 100th day of his second presidency will end on April 30th, 2025. As of this writing, **President Trump** has signed 124 executive orders, 29 proclamations, 27 memorandums, and signed the Laken Riley Act, a continuing appropriations act, and miscellaneous pieces of legislation undoing Biden-era policies.

NOTE—The **Wikipedia Encyclopedia** website has created a tracking webpage to record the timeline and significant actions of Donald Trump's second presidency, titled "First 100 days of the second Donald Trump presidency." After the initial citation of that source in the following paragraph the other citations in this section of the Potomac column will be referenced as "See Wikipedia First 100 days article."

"Since taking office, Trump's extensive use of executive orders has drawn a mixed reception. Some executive orders tested the limits of executive authority, and others faced immediate legal challenges. Major topics Trump has focused on include

- immigration reform
- deportations
- applying tariffs on other countries
- cutting federal spending
- reducing the federal workforce
- increasing executive authority
- and implementing a non-interventionist foreign policy."

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_100_days_of_the_second_Donald_Trump_presidency.

Background—According to the Wikipedia site, Trump's primary goal for the first 100 days of his second presidency is "to implement the Agenda 47 policy platform of his presidential campaign, reversing many of the executive actions and policies of President **Joe Biden**.

Trump said on the first day of his second term that he would

- begin the mass deportation of illegal immigrants
- close the US border with Mexico
- reinstate the travel bans on specific countries
- end the federal government's electric vehicle incentives and pro-climate subsidies
- expand domestic oil production
- pardon defendants of the January 6th United States Capitol Riot of 2021
- end protections for gender-affirming care
- and cut federal funding for schools his administration deemed 'woke.'

Trump also promised

- tariffs on US foreign trade partners
- tax cuts
- and a reduction of the size of the federal government."

See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Executive Orders—Upon taking office, "Trump signed a record number of executive orders. He signed 26, numbered 14147-14166, on his first day in office – more than any other president. Four days into Trump's second term, Time magazine reported that nearly two-thirds of his executive actions 'mirror or partially mirror' proposals from Project 2025, and was the opinion of Bloomberg Government as well." See Wikipedia First 100 days article and also <https://www.project2025.org/>.

As of April 17th, 2025, **President Trump** has signed 124 Executive orders (EO 14147 through EO 14270). The Federal Register web page contains documents that have been published.

See—<https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025>.

Presidential Memorandums—President Trump issued a total of 12 memorandums on his first day in office. See Wikipedia First 100 days article. “These memorandums

- established an America First Trade Policy
- placed a 90-day hiring freeze (with exceptions for troops, secretaries, and others)
- require all government employees to work in-office and end federal remote-work
- prohibits federal agencies from issuing new regulations until they are reviewed and approved
- pause offshore wind projects
- restarts efforts to reroute water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of California
- delivers emergency price relief
- ensures that federal buildings are visually identifiable as civic buildings
- creates a list of personnel eligible for TS/SCI security clearances for a six-month period
- and implement improvements for California’s water infrastructure.”

Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)—President Trump signed an executive order to formally establish three DOGE entities. “The former United States Digital Service was renamed as the United States DOGE Service (USDS). The DOGE Service Temporary Organization was created, with the USDS serving as its parent organization. The DOGE Temporary Organization was given an expiration date of July 4th, 2026.

DOGE teams were established for federal agencies, with each team consisting of four members

- a team leader
- an engineer
- an HR specialist
- and an attorney.

DOGE Documents are classified as presidential records, preventing public access to the information until at least 2034. DOGE is not a cabinet level, rather a federal office.” See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Immigration policy—During his presidential campaign Trump continually promised to address the Mexico border crisis, and many of his early actions have focused on this issue. “President Trump signed executive orders that

- declared a second national emergency on the southern border, enabling the deployment of armed forces and addressing the fentanyl crisis
- the designation of International Drug Cartels as foreign terrorist organizations
- repealing a Biden executive order that created the Family Reunification Task Force
- suspending the Refugee Admissions Program for 90 days
- ended the CNHV Parole Program for nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela
- and attempting to end birthright citizenship for descendants of illegal immigrants who were born in America.

Policies and initiatives revived from Trump’s first term include ‘Remain in Mexico,’ construction on the US-Mexico border, and travel bans.” See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

The Laken Riley Act signed into law—On January 29th, 2025, Trump signed the Laken Riley Act into law, the first legislation of Trump’s second term. “The law is named after **Laken Riley**, a nursing student who was murdered by an illegal immigrant in 2024. After signing the Laken Riley Act into law, Trump signed a presidential memorandum to order the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security to begin the expansion of the migrant operations center in the Guantanamo Bay naval base, separate from the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp military prison, to house up to 30,000 ‘high priority’ illegal migrant detainees. The operations center was previously used to temporarily house migrants during prior presidencies.” See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

“Gold Card” for legal immigration—On February 25th, 2025, President Trump announced that the US would sell a “gold card” to wealthy foreigners, giving them the right to live and work in the US and thereby providing a path to citizenship for payment of a \$5 million fee. “Unlike EB-5, the current Visa program, which requires investors to fund projects that create US jobs, the ‘Gold Card’ seems to prioritize attracting capital for government use—potentially as a deficit-reduction measure. There are constitutional questions about executive authority for this kind of change to immigration and tax law without expressed Congressional approval. It is unclear what would happen to the US federal taxability of a Gold Card holder’s non-US income, if the holder becomes a US citizen.” See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Deportation of Immigrants—President Trump also promised to deport immigrants, and he began doing that immediately after taking office. “The administration’s policy has been characterized as a mass deportation campaign, affecting millions of migrants and asylum seekers through widespread detentions, confinements, and expulsions. On January 23rd, 2025, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began to carry out raids on sanctuary cities, with hundreds of immigrants detained and deported. The Trump administration reversed previous policy and gave ICE permission to raid schools, hospitals and places of worship. The use of deportation flights by the US has created pushback from some foreign governments, particularly Colombia. The administration targeted activists, legal immigrants, tourists, and students with green cards who expressed criticism of his policies or engaged in pro-Palestinian advocacy.” See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Economic policy—Inflation was continually mentioned during Trump's 2024 campaign and was a dominant issue of the subsequent election. "After taking office on January 20th, 2025, Trump inherited an economy with inflation rates that were declining from 40-year highs, but still remaining a burden on Americans and above the Federal Reserve's targeted 2% rate. The unemployment rate was 4.4%, the Inflation rate ranged from 2.2% to 2.4%, and the national debt was approximately 36.2 trillion. Since becoming president, Trump has imposed tariffs on China and initially promised tariffs on Canada and Mexico, before rescheduling and postponing the tariffs' dates. During a Fox News interview with **Maria Bartiromo** on March 9th, 2025, Trump did not rule out the possibility that the US economy would enter a recession. He said his economic policy would cause short-term turbulence but would be economically beneficial in the long term." See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Trade Tariffs—On February 1st, 2025, Trump signed three executive orders imposing a 25 percent tariff on all goods from Mexico and Canada and a 10 percent tariff on China. "A lower 10 percent tariff was announced for all energy exports from Canada, including electricity, natural gas, and oil. On February 3rd, Trump announced that the tariffs on both Mexico and Canada would be paused for one month after the countries agreed to take further steps to prevent the trafficking of drugs into the United States. On March 3rd, Trump announced that he would impose tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico. The tariffs went into effect on March 4th, triggering a trade war with Canada, China, and Mexico. On April 2nd, a day Trump nicknamed 'Liberation Day,' Trump announced a baseline 10% universal import tariff on all imported goods and even higher rates for 57 trading partners. These tariffs and retaliatory tariffs from other nations resulted in an immediate US stock market crash and resulted in a bear market." See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Stock Market Reaction to Tariffs—On April 16th, 2025, **Max Zahn** with ABC News reported that Wall Street analysts were warning of a bumpy economic outlook with President Trump's tariffs. "After Trump's tariff announcement in the Rose Garden on April 2nd, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq suffered their biggest one-day losses since the COVID pandemic. When Trump paused some of the tariffs a week later, the indexes soared, recovering much of their losses. Since then, however, an escalating trade war with tariffs has contributed to topsy-turvy markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped about 4%, and the S&P 500 has decreased roughly 5%. The technology-oriented Nasdaq has also dropped about 5%."

The ABC article went on to describe "As markets swung, bond yields climbed, and the US dollar depreciated, prompting concerns about assets that typically serve as safe-haven investments during moments of instability for stocks. The 10-year Treasury yield, which helps set interest rates for mortgages and credit cards, has eased in recent days but stands well above its level at the outset of this month." See—<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wild-time-wall-street-strategists-warn-uncertain-outlook/story?id=120820127#> .

Federal Reserve Chair says tariffs could lead to economic slowdown—On April 16th, 2025, CBS News reported that Federal Reserve Chair **Jerome Powell** publicly stated that President Trump's tariffs could lead to inflation and economic slowdown that would impact all US citizens. Powell said: "the central bank could face a 'challenging scenario' of managing both accelerating inflation and a slowing economy brought on by the impact of President Trump's tariffs."

Powell went on to say that the Federal Reserve would remain patient and wait to see how tariffs and other economic policies of the Trump administration play out before making any changes to interest rates. "The sharp volatility in financial markets since Mr. Trump announced sweeping tariffs April 2nd, only to put most of them on hold a week later, has led to speculation about whether the Federal Reserve would soon cut its key interest rate or take other steps to calm investors." See—<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jerome-powell-speech-today-federal-reserve-inflation-tariffs/> .

That same day on April 16th, **Bryan Mena**, CNN News, reported that President Trump elevated his criticism against Federal Reserve Chair **Jerome Powell**, calling for his "termination" for not cutting interest rates quickly enough. With an early morning post on social platform X (Twitter), Trump wrote: "The US central bank is lagging behind its European counterpart in lowering the interest rate. The European Central Bank later Thursday morning announced that it is cutting interest rates for the seventh time in the past year.

President Trump said: "Jerome Powell of the Fed, who is always TOO LATE AND WRONG, yesterday issued a report which was another, and typical, complete 'mess!' Trump wrote. "Powell's termination cannot come fast enough!"

See—<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/17/economy/trump-fed-chair-powell-termination/index.html>.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—Trump signed numerous executive orders intended to roll back diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies. "Several of these orders were particularly directed at transgender Americans. On his first day in office, he signed an executive order titled 'Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,' which required federal departments to recognize male and female genders determined by sex assigned at conception and ceased all funding for gender affirming care. Trump also signed an order which ordered federal agencies to fire all workers involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion programs." See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Government Operations—On January 27th, 2025, "the Trump administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released memo M-25-13, which ordered the federal government to take action the next day to temporarily freeze all federal funding, while programs were being reviewed for compliance with Trump's executive orders. The memo sparked considerable uncertainty among government employees, lawmakers, and nonprofit organizations— with Medicaid portals, FAFSA, and other programs being shut down across the country. After several organizations sued, the OMB memo was temporarily blocked by United States District Judge **Loren AliKhan**, with the memo being withdrawn on the 29th."

On January 28th, OMB offered a "deferred resignation" action to federal government employees who would announce their resignation by February 6th, while stating that employees who resigned would still receive salary and benefits until September 30th, 2025. See-Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Presidential Pardons—On January 20th, 2025, President Trump granted clemency to about 1,500 people convicted of offenses related to the January 6th United States Capitol attack that occurred near the end of his first presidential term. "The President also commuted the sentences of many members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, including **Enrique Tarrio** and **Stewart Rhodes**.

These Presidential grants of clemency were described by counterterrorism researchers as possibly encouraging future political violence. Employees in the Justice Department and legal scholars called the pardons an unprecedented and dangerous use of the presidential pardon and created a mockery of federal law enforcement, their work, and the US justice system. Many of the pardoned rioters had prior convictions for serious and violent crimes. See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

Polling on Public Reaction to the Administration's Actions—On January 21st, an opinion poll from Reuters news network “found that 47 percent of adult Americans approve of Trump’s performance as president, while 41 percent disapprove. In a new poll released by The Economist on April 16th, 2025, Trump’s approval rating was rated 42 percent, and his disapproval rating is 52 percent—a 10 percent switch and gap. See Wikipedia First 100 days article.

On April 17th, 2025, **Martha McHardy** with Newsweek reported that “Independent voters were a key pillar of Trump’s coalition in the 2024 election, with 46 percent backing him—up from 41 percent in 2020, when a majority (54 percent) voted Democrat. But that support appears to be eroding in the wake of the President’s sweeping tariff announcement on April 2nd, which rattled the markets before a partial pause temporarily stabilized them. Since then, however, Trump’s approval among independents has not recovered. Newsweek’s analysis of every poll conducted after April 2nd that includes independent voter data finds his net approval currently stands at-17 points, with just 37 percent approving and 54 percent disapproving. The President’s lowest approval rating came from a YouGov poll conducted April 7–10, where only 30 percent of independents approved of his performance while 61 percent disapproved—a net approval of-31 points. See—<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-approval-rating-independents-2060592>.

Protests—Protests of the second Trump presidency began with “the People’s March, a protest which took place in Washington DC and various locations around the country two days before Trump took office. The protests were largely considered to be less significant and attracted smaller crowds than the 2017 Women’s March and others during Trump’s first presidency.” See—https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_100_days_of_the_second_Donald_Trump_presidency.

April 6th, 2025, CNN reported on additional protests of the Trump political agenda and wrote: “Scores of people took part in protests against President **Donald Trump** and **Elon Musk** across all 50 states and globally on Saturday, organized by a pro-democracy movement, in response to what they call a ‘hostile takeover’ and attack on American rights and freedoms. Over 1,400 ‘Hands Off’ mass-action protests were held at state capitals, federal buildings, congressional offices, Social Security’s headquarters, parks, and city halls across the country to seek an end to this billionaire power grab.”

According to CNN, nearly 600,000 people had signed up to attend the events, some of which took place in major cities like London and Paris, according to Indivisible news network, one of the organizations leading the movement in collaboration with a nationwide coalition that includes civil rights organizations, veterans, women’s rights groups, labor unions, and LGBTQ+ advocates. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/05/us/hands-off-protests-trump-musk/index.html>.

BREAKING NEWS—White House describes additional layoffs, local office closures and program eliminations at USDA

On April 15th, 2025, **Eric Katz**, Senior Correspondent with the Government Executive (GovExec) news network reported on shocking Trump administration plans to dramatically scale back or completely eliminate funding for many programs across USDA and agriculture agencies. These details were revealed in White House documents obtained by GovExec and describe plans for staffing reductions and office closures at the local level.

NOTE—The Government Executive news article is cited as the reference source for several portions of this section on proposed USDA layoffs, office closures, and program eliminations. After the initial citation of that source in the following paragraph, the other citations in this section of the Potomac column will be referenced as “See the GovExec article.”

According to the GovExec article: “The ‘pass-back’ document from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revealed proposed reduced funding levels for USDA for fiscal year 2026. An OMB pass-back document is the Administration’s response to federal agencies’ budget requests. “The proposed funding reductions for USDA would gut research and conservation efforts, trim program budgets nearly across the board, and cut staff as part of what OMB called ‘many difficult decisions’ that were necessary to reach the proposed spending level. The document assumes savings from upcoming layoffs at USDA, including those at the **Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service**, and calls for “protecting the American people by deconstructing a wasteful and weaponized bureaucracy.”

See—<https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/04/white-house-pitches-layoffs-local-office-closures-and-program-eliminations-usda/404580/>.

GovExec reported “the proposed cuts come as USDA is planning to gut its Washington headquarters, consolidate mission areas and administrative functions, and relocate some staff to new ‘hubs’ around the country. Thousands of employees are expected to receive reduction-in-force notices, though the impact of those cuts could be mitigated by the 16,000 employees who have already accepted the USDA ‘deferred resignation’ offers. The Congressional Research Service has noted agencies can appeal certain programmatic decisions to OMB, but the documents generally serve as the White House office’s final decision.” See—GovExec article.

In the document, OMB directed USDA “to develop plans to consolidate its local, county-based offices around the country into state committees that would service the FSA, NRCS and Rural Development. Those three agencies employ nearly 20,000 workers, and one official who helps oversee them said that the change would lead to office closures at the county level. OMB suggested that the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC)—which provides management and shared services to FSA, NRCS and RMA—will have less work to do going forward, “given the reduction of staffing proposed” for those agencies. FSA would see its

salaries and expense account cut by 22% under the OMB suggestion, as the agency modernizes the customer experience and implements "a smaller footprint of FSA county offices." See the GovExec article.

Zachary Ducheneaux, former FSA administrator from the previous administration, likened the Trump administration's downsizing approach "to a beef cattle producer starving his cows to boost efficiency and then getting rid of them when those results, predictably, do not occur. According to Ducheneaux, the plan, given FSA's scope of work assisting farmers across the country, is "really shortsighted at best." He predicted farmers who do not have private sector options will wait longer to get federal loans, and federal personnel will miss deadlines set in statutes and regulations because "there is not enough time in the day. That will fail to satisfy congressional Republicans, he added, who criticized the Biden administration for taking too long to provide key services to their constituents." See the GovExec article.

Among the other cuts the Trump administration is looking to implement at USDA would be eliminating forest and rangeland research as currently conducted by the US Forest Service (USFS). GovExec previously reported that USDA planned to slash research at USFS and eliminate research stations as part of its RIF and reorganization plan. It would also eliminate a program that provides state, private, and tribal landholders with funding to help prevent and fight wildfires. NRCS would slash funding for its Private Lands Conservation Operations by \$773 million, though OMB said some of those cuts would be offset elsewhere in the budget. **Sen. Patty Murray**, D-Wash, the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said "the cuts OMB has proposed represented a 'one-two punch' when coupled with the impact of President Trump's tariffs and ensuing trade war. There's nothing efficient or smart about gutting our investments in American agriculture and our public lands." See the GovExec article.

Ducheneaux said: "the human impact on laid off USDA staff in rural communities will be 'generational.' There are so many lifelong, dedicated career civil servants who are working there, who could be making more out in the private sector, but are choosing to be there for their neighbors and their community." See the GovExec article.

Work on a new Farm Bill

Agriculture committees in both the House and the Senate are currently working on a new Farm Bill in 2025. The 2018 Farm Bill was extended by Congress for another year through September 30th, 2025. According to Farmers.gov., a USDA website, this Farm Bill extension was passed by Congress as part of the American Relief Act of 2025 signed into law on Dec. 21st, 2024, and ensures the continuation of programs authorized by the previous Farm Bill, including safety-net, price support, and conservation programs. Additionally, the American Relief Act provided significant financial assistance to farmers through the Economic Assistance Program (ECAP). See—<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/farm-bill>.

NACD reactions to proposed USDA cuts

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has responded to the USDA's planned reductions in a March 13 letter to **Brooke Rollins**, Secretary of Agriculture, and expressed concern about the potential impacts on conservation delivery and urging USDA to prioritize data-driven decision-making and local adaptation of conservation programs. NACD also supports efforts to streamline administrative processes and maintain flexibility for producers, especially through conservation incentive contracts.

Information from the web explains: "NACD acknowledges the need for efficiency within USDA but expresses concern that closing offices or reducing staff could hinder timely service delivery to producers and impact the local conservation delivery system. NACD emphasizes the importance of using data to inform decisions about staffing levels and office locations, as previously done during President Trump's first administration, to ensure that conservation efforts are effective and efficient.

NACD is wary of new national initiatives or priorities that might limit the ability of local conservation districts to prioritize and adapt conservation programs to meet local needs. NACD supports measures to streamline administrative processes, such as simplifying application and contracting procedures, and continuing to provide flexibility for producers through conservation incentive contracts (CICs)." For more see the NACD website at:

<https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-03-13-NACD-Letter-USDA-ARRP-Final.pdf>

NARFE Advocacy for Federal Employees and Retirees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) actively advocates against proposals that threaten the retirement and health benefits of federal employees and retirees, including those in the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). They oppose cuts to government contributions towards FEHB premiums, changes that would limit access to these benefits, and any actions that would reduce the value of earned retirement annuities, according to NARFE's website at <https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Issue-Brief-Threats-to-Federal-Employees-and-Retirees-2025-1-2.pdf>.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Life Members

Richard D, "Rick" Swenson – Catonsville, Maryland
Stephen Musser – Auburn, Alabama

New Members

Kurtis Hoeft - Charles City, Iowa
Gary J. Reckner – Gordonsville, Tennessee
Ivan Dozier - Mill Shoals, Illinois
Steve Langholdt – Denison, Iowa
Bruce Wright – Ames, Iowa
Tanya A. Meyer-Dideriksen – Ankeny, Iowa

Larry E. Jones – Newton, Iowa
Doug McKalip – Washington, DC
Douglas S. Johnson – Dubuque, Iowa
Jerry Muff – Elkader, Iowa
Ruth Montgomery - Bedford, Indiana
Kenneth Collons – Maceo, Kentucky
Mike O'Shea – Sarona, Wisconsin
Theron Meyer - Eau Claire, Wisconsin
L. Ruth Izer – Iowa City, Iowa
Barb Hanson – Waukon, Iowa
Paul Miller – Clive, Iowa
Mark Eastman – Lafayette, Indiana
Steven L. Wade – Linton, Indiana
Doreen Peters – Townsend, Montana

Joseph Van Mullem – Bozeman, Montana
Brian Wenberg – Belton, Texas
James Neighbors – Temple, Texas
Rodney Hyatt – Belton, Texas
Allan Colwick – Belton, Texas
Deb Duley – Lafayette, Indiana

New Affiliate Members

Krecia Leddy – Stockholm, South Dakota
Seth Fiedler – Albuquerque, New Mexico
Maria Iannuzzelli – Pennington, New Jersey
Coleen Churchill – Easton, Pennsylvania
Lea Holter – Maple Grove, Minnesota

MEMBERSHIP Contest Results:

Thank you to all the individuals that participated in recruiting 61 new ARCSE members. The ARCSE Governing Board approved that the top recruiter in each region would receive a Lifetime ARCSE membership, or if already a Life Member, a \$200 gift card. The Regional winners are:

- East Region: **Nancy Paolini** - \$200 gift card
- South Region: **Arnold King** - \$200 gift card
- Midwest Region: **Mark Jensen** - \$200 gift card
- West Region: **Bill Ward** - Life Membership

Several new members credited the ARCSE website or ARCSE Facebook page in encouraging them to join, so we greatly appreciate those who maintain those sites as well. In addition to the above regional winners, the following people were credited with encouraging at least one person to join ARCSE:

Heather Bacher	Julie MacSwain
John Brach	Ruth Montgomery
David Buland	Brian Rodman
Jim Culver	Roni Schadegg
Bill Gradle	Chris Tippie
Jane Hardisty	Lori Valadez
Billye Haslett	Melvin Womack
Dan Kesselring	

Directory: Please take time to review the Directory that is included with this issue of the newsletter. If you see any mistakes, please let me know so that we get it right next time. There are still a few ARCSE members that we have not heard from in some time. If you know one of the members listed has passed away, please let me know. You can email me at soilwarden@verizon.net.

Obituaries: As always, please let me and your state representative know if you become aware of any SCS/NRCS retiree (ARCSE Member or not), current or former SCS/NRCS employee, or retiree spouse, who passes away, so that we can include an obituary for them in the next newsletter. Don't assume that someone else will let me know because many times they don't.

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES Due by January 1 st , 2025	
Member	\$25 per year
Affiliate	\$25 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$325
Age 65 thru 74	\$275
Age 75 or older	\$175
<i>NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$15.00 per year.</i>	
<i>Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965 Moscow, ID 83843</i>	

ARCSE Donations Making a Difference

Thank you to the many ARCSE members who have been giving donations to our organization. Your gifts are making a difference in our organization. We appreciate your generosity and kindness.

If you are interested in donating, please check out our website at: <https://arcse.org/give/>

–All the best, Julie MacSwain

Wanted! Mentor Applications

ARCSE has made a commitment to move forward with identifying members who are interested in mentoring NRCS employees. We believe we need to be ready for whatever is ahead for the agency to fulfill any future needs. Mentoring is a special partnership between two people based on commitment to the mentoring process, common goals/expectations of the partnership, and mutual trust and respect. Mentoring is a "get and give" experience with the goal of providing a rich and rewarding experience for both partners. We ask you to share your information to better match you in a mentoring relationship. Click here to fill out your application today. [Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees Mentor Application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNgjpcO998ZTxPTos97j8Agh8niJCTEsV4C8ogkdzoatBe0g/viewform?pli=1) (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNgjpcO998ZTxPTos97j8Agh8niJCTEsV4C8ogkdzoatBe0g/viewform?pli=1>)

(Special note: you will need to set up a Google account to access the form. If you already have a Google account, you may need to log in.)

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

Email: earl_norton@yahoo.com



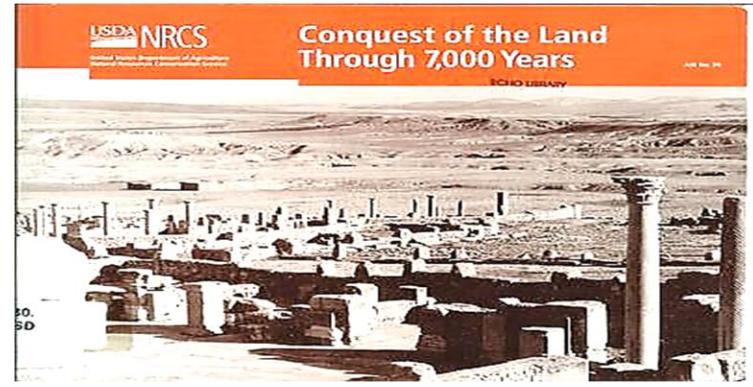
Local retirees continue breakfast at Chappy's Restaurant in Auburn. Seated on March 3rd, 2025 (left to right): Cliff Jones, Steve Musser, Earl Norton, Charles Bush., Perry Oakes, and Vic Payne.



These monuments have graced the home/farm entrance to Windy Valley Farm for more than a half century, a few miles west of Montgomery and Prattville adjacent to U.S. Hwy. 82. **Earl Norton**, retired Alabama SRC, stands by the monument inscribed with "Eleventh Commandment" written by **Dr. W.C. Lowdermilk**, Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, and first presented in a talk in Jerusalem in June 1939 following an 18-month study trip over Western Europe.

SCS/NRCS retirees over the nation will recall the Eleventh Commandment in "Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years," published in USDA Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 99. Alabamians are unsure when the monuments were installed, but Don Presley, former District Conservationist in the Autauga County Soil and Water Conservation District, and later Area Conservationist (retired), recently recalled assisting the landowner during the late 1960s in developing a Conservation Plan for the property (which already had the monuments). The landowner was an administrative official with the University of Alabama and received technical services from the Soil Conservation Service for converting marginal cropland to forestland/wildlife uses.

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth." USDA Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 99.



ARIZONA

Wade Biddix, ARCSE Representative

Email: rwbiddix@aol.com

Soybeans being planted on **Steve Black's** farm in SW Illinois on April 15th using conservation tillage system. Even though this is not no-till, a good amount of corn residue can be seen on the soil surface that was left by one pass of a vertical tillage tool last fall. The corn that will be planted in the bean residue will also have substantial residue on the surface and is more like no-till.

Soybeans are now often planted earlier than corn in many years, which is a total change from the tradition of planting beans in mid-May. Research has found that earlier-planted beans yield a lot higher than later planted beans. The new varieties are much more resistant to diseases that can do damage to early-planted soybeans, thus allowing earlier planting with less risk.



Conservation Tillage

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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ARCSE's "SCS/NRCS Musicians' Project"

On behalf of all musicians who enjoyed long careers with SCS/NRCS and our ARCSE Boards, I am pleased to announce that this May-June 2025 Edition of our ARCSE bimonthly Newsletter includes information about a newly-launched Musicians' Project. We are also encouraging all musicians from SCS and NRCS to submit their biography information to become part of the database and this project.

I want to thank our ARCSE President **Julie MacSwain** for introducing this new and exciting project that will allow biographies of musicians from SCS and NRCS to be shared on our ARCSE website. Thanks again to Julie and the entire ARCSE Board for their support of this project.

A small group of musicians who enjoyed long careers with SCS/NRCS began an effort in late 2024 to recognize other career SCS/NRCS musicians like themselves. This group included longtime musicians and retired NRCS engineers, **Douglas Toews** and **Bill Ward** from California and **Dennis Clute** from Texas.

This group had an ultimate vision and goal to write and share biographies of fellow musicians from the SCS and NRCS and be able to share these biographies from the "ARCSE Website." Biographies will share information about each individual's life experiences as a musician, as well as their professional experience.

With approval and full support of the ARCSE board, wonderful work by ARCSE's webmaster **Kaitlin Little**, that vision and goal has been met, or at least is off to a great start. Kaitlin has modified the ARCSE website to add links to biographies of Musicians from the SCS and NRCS. The current ARCSE website has ten biographies of musicians who enjoyed wonderful careers with SCS or NRCS.

The following tabs and links are also under the "Resources" link on the ARCSE web page (<https://arcse.org/resources>).

WANTED!



MUSICIANS

from the
Soil Conservation Service
and the
Natural Resources Conservation Service
for a special project to document
Biographies of Musicians from the SCS & NRCS

For more information and how to apply, go to:

<https://arcse.org/musicians>

This project is sponsored by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees

These links under <https://arcse.org/musicians/> provide the following information:

- **Introduction** includes a forward written by ARCSE President **Julie MacSwain** and an introduction written by our biography editor, **Douglas Toews**.
- **Biographies** are written narratives sharing information about each musician, including their life experiences as musicians, SCS/NRCS careers, awards, other professional experience, military, and educational history. Some musicians' biographies include a link to the musician's band web page, with music samples and more photos.
- **How to Join** provides a fillable form for musicians from SCS and NRCS to provide their biography information for final editing and inclusion into our existing database of biographies of musicians. This link includes instructions on how to submit biography information.

We look forward to seeing our number of biographies of musicians from SCS and NRCS grow with time. The ARCSE website information will be updated accordingly.

This is an exciting time and opportunity for our SCS/NRCS musicians. I will be happy to answer any questions from anyone with interest in being part of this unique SCS/NRCS/Musicians' Project.

I also look forward to opportunities for all of us musicians to be able to connect in the future via Zoom and share stories about our latest musical experiences.

Sincerely

Bill Ward, Western Lights Band Leader and Guitar Player
CA ARCSE State Rep and ARCSE West Region VP

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

The Fort Collins breakfast club and several other friends and colleagues, saddened by the loss of member **Terry Buettgenbach** in late February, attended his funeral the first Tuesday in March. **Stu Keil, Phil Smith, Chuck Hart, Frank Geter, and Jack Carlson** convened at The Breakfast Club the first Tuesday in April, further acknowledging Terry's contributions to conservation and public service. As noted in the In Memoriam, from the country's agricultural heartland Terry was one of the principal authors of the NRCS Planning Procedures Handbook, a conservation planning guide impacting program delivery the past three decades.

CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Carl Du Poldt, ARCSE Representative

Email: cdupoldt@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES PLAN 2025 – 2030—https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/oppm/igpp/org/cdplan/final_adopted_cd_plan_w_appendices_3-5-2025.pdf?rev=2e527f47340c4c408ae435206930cbeb&hash=F084533FEA71A8B949DC1DE2E8A1393E

CT–Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)—<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/appdata/tmy/2023HB-06659-R000227-Savageau,%20Denise,%20President-CT%20Assoc%20of%20Cons%20Districts-Supports-TMY.PDF>

New Hampshire State Conservation Committee Conservation Moose Plate Grant Program Fiscal Year 2025 Application Instruction for Land Conservation Projects Application Due Date: September 13, 2024—https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/scc_2025-land-conservation-application-instruction.pdf

NH–Association of Conservation Districts—<https://www.nhacd.net/>

RI–Land Conservation—<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/planning-development/land-conservation>

RI–Rhode Island Natural History Survey—<https://rinhs.org/>

RI–GUIDANCE HANDBOOK #13:- PLANNING FOR LAND USE—
https://planning.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur826/files/documents/comp_handbook/13_LandUse.pdf

VT–Wildlife Action Plan 2025-2035—<https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/budget-and-planning/wildlife-action-plan>

VT–VNRC is Accepting Nominations for the 2025 Arthur Gibb Award!—<https://vnrc.org/vnrc-is-accepting-nominations-for-the-2025-arthur-gibb-award/>

VT–VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICTS—
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Agriculture/Food%20Security/W-Michelle%20Monroe~Vermont%20Natural%20Resources%20Conservation%20Districts%20Presentation~4-9-2025.pdf>

Actionable science, Invasive species management, Restoration.

Riparian Restoration Experiment for Native Species Conservation in Vermont.
Case Study by the Conservation and Adaptation Resources Toolbox.

IDAHO

Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative

Email: idahoarcse@gmail.com

Sharon Lenore Norris passed away on April 10th. She had worked for the NRCS for 40 years. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

INDIANA

Jane Hardisty, ARCSE Representative

Email: dirtlady52@aol.com

Indiana is holding a retirees meeting on May 2nd at the state office. Because we are losing so many employees due to the Deferred Retirement Program, we are inviting these folks to join with us so we can show our appreciation for their years of dedicated service. Our state conservationist **DaMarys Mortenson** will attend to give an update on Indiana NRCS, along with **Susan Meadows**, our Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy.



Indiana retirees for lunch, March 20th. Left to right: Chris Tippie, Susan Meadows, Jeanette and Freddie Glover, Bob Eddleman, daughter MaryBeth and her husband Nick, Bob Eddleman, Jane Hardisty, Paula Mulligan, Becky Fletcher, Jill Reinhart, Mike Wiggington, and Mike Cox

“Common Ground”

Becky Fletcher sent in the following. “Common Ground” free viewing starts today (Earth Day) on Amazon. This is the second video by a nonprofit called “Kiss the Ground.” These documentaries feature soil health farmers that NRCS has worked with and some pretty high-level actors. I was on the National Soil Health Team when Kiss the Ground began putting together their first film, and we were privileged to provide them soil health kits, farmers to interview, and other resources. The first film, “Kiss the Ground,” was shown by many Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the country and was picked up by theaters. Seeing these efforts come alive is truly rewarding.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

Last November **Robin Wisner** moved into a new senior care facility in Nevada, Iowa. **Herb Wilson** visited Robin and sent in this picture of them.



Robin Wisner (Left) and Herb Wilson

Paul Miller retired in 2018 as the District Conservationist in Ankeny. Shortly after retiring, he started his second career as the State Urban Conservationist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. He led the Urban Conservation Team. The

team worked with many towns and cities across the state, planning, designing, and installing stormwater management practices such as stormwater bio-reactor cells, stormwater wetlands, and permeable pavers. On one project, Paul worked with **Jeff Godwin**, who was the consulting engineer, on an urban conservation practice in Underwood. Paul retired from his second career on February 27th. Congratulations Paul!

Jeff Godwin retired in 2017 as a Civil Engineer in the Atlantic Area Office. Shortly after retiring, he started his second career as an Engineer with Snyder and Associates, an engineering consulting firm. Jeff worked on over 65 projects, mostly small town water and wastewater projects with a total construction cost of approximately \$75M. Recently he "mostly" retired from the consulting engineer job. Jeff has a young engineer stepping into his position and will be working with him one day per week for the rest of 2025 in a mentoring/training role. Jeff said that after doing engineering work for the past 45 years, it will take a little time to get used to retirement! Congratulations Jeff!

In a rather interesting way, and perhaps somewhat unusual, Paul and Jeff worked together during their post-NRCS days on a stormwater bioswale project in the town of Underwood. Jeff provided a "before" picture and a "during construction" picture of the project. Jeff described the practice as follows:

"The riprap upstream from the three culverts is a rock chute. There is an 18" thick soil/sand mixture to be seeded with a lawn seed mix to maximize infiltration. There is a 3" stone filter layer over a 27" thick stone base layer to temporarily store the runoff and lower peak flows downstream."



Underwood Bioswale Site – "before"



Underwood Bioswale during construction

Recently I had a good visit with **Arnold (Arnie) Wetzstein** from McGregor. Arnie grew up around Buhl, Idaho. He attended the University of Idaho in Moscow, where he earned his degree in Civil Engineering. After college he went to work for the University of Idaho in Twin Falls, where his primary job was monitoring water quality in irrigation canals. From there he went to work for the Idaho Department of Water Resources where he worked on Idaho's water adjudication project. He then got a position with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission which was located next door to the NRCS Field Office in Twin Falls. After working for them for a couple of years, Arnie was hired as a Civil Engineer in the Twin Falls Field Office. Some of his primary duties included providing training to field office staff and designing irrigation systems and livestock pipelines. Arnie retired in 2017 but continued to do NRCS work as a Technical Service Provider for another year and a half. In 2021 Arnie and his wife **Shawn Lee** moved to McGregor to be closer to her parents in Wisconsin.

Thank you to **Lee White** for the following: "Lee and **Alice White** explored the lower Mississippi River in late February. The boat cruise started in New Orleans with jazz bands and pre-Mardi Gras activities. Stops along the cruise included: Darrow, Louisiana; Baton Rouge; Natchez; and Vicksburg, Mississippi; and ended in Memphis, Tennessee. Highlights included antebellum mansions on the Mississippi, the oldest bar on the river in Natchez, and a great tour of the civil war battlefield near Vicksburg. The lower Mississippi is highly industrialized with many barges of grain and other commodities headed to New Orleans and upstream as well. The barges always had the right of way, and the captain had to be nimble to avoid them. This was especially difficult, since most travel was at night. Mid-February floods in the Kentucky area caused a 44-foot rise in the river level, but still way below the tops of the levees. The boat itself held about 300 passengers and 125 crew members. We had an enjoyable adventure."



Alice and Lee White in front of their riverboat on the Mississippi

On April 1st the northeast Iowa conservation retirees met at the Sunset Restaurant in Manchester. **Rick Cordes** is now coordinating the scheduling of these get-togethers. The picture shows those who attended this event.



Northeast Iowa Retirees (L to R) Back Row: Norman Friedrich, Brian Rodman, Dave Gibney, Anges Kenney. Front Row: Jerry Muff, Jim Brown, Rick Cordes, Jim Ranum, Bob Vobora, Keith Krause

Thank you to **Eldon Weber** for the following update: "On April 5th, **Jeannie** and I celebrated our 67th wedding anniversary. We were married in El Paso, Texas, while I was in Anti-Aircraft (Nike missile) Officers' Basic Training at Ft. Bliss. I graduated from Iowa State University in June of 1957 and spent time at the LeMars field office in Plymouth County as a soil conservationist before going to El Paso in March of 1958. In July I will celebrate my 90th birthday."

During the past couple of months we were saddened by the passing of **Charlie Branham**. Charlie was a long-time soil scientist in southwest Iowa. His obituary is in the "In-Memoriam" section of this newsletter. **Norm Koester** and **Steve Stover**, two of his former co-workers in the Council Bluffs Area Office, attended his funeral. Charlie was buried in the Garner Township Cemetery in Council Bluffs where the picture was taken.



Norm Koester, Megan and Shane (Charlie Branham's kids), and Janice and Steve Stover

MIDATLANTIC STATES

Terry D'Addio, ARCSE Representative

Email: tmdaddio@aol.com



Virginia ARCSE retirees, March 4: John Peterson, Ron Marlow, Bill Irwin, Dave Thackeray, John Moore (Jerry Bernard photographer).



Virginia ARCSE retirees, April 1st: John Moore, John Peterson, Bill Irwin, Dave Thackeray, Paul Benedict, Ron Marlow, Jerry Bernard.



L-R, Back Row: Anne and Ron Marlow, Gary and Marianne Margheim, Krecio Leddy, Julie MacSwain, Barbara Osgood, Kendra Safley, Bill Boyer, Janet Perry, Vera Carey. L-R, Front Row: Terry D'Addio, Maxine Barron, Jon and Blanche Peterson, Bob Snieckus, Kenneth (our host), Melvin Womack, Jerry Bernard.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25TH, 2025.



The SCS reunion crew at Hilton Head Island. L-R: John and Blanche Peterson, Art Holland, Niles and Carolyn Glasgow. Art was the NTC Director in the NE. Niles was STC in FL and SC. Great friends. Don and Jo Gohmert, who are usually with us, had to miss this year for surgery for Jo.



Blanche, Carolyn, Niles and John at Harbour Town Marina in the Sea Pines Plantation.



Harbour Town Marina with the lighthouse and yachts.



Blanche and John Peterson at the famous Salty Dog Café at South Beach in the Sea Pines Plantation. A tourist favorite with good food.



View of the lagoon from our decks. Very relaxing. We are 0.2 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Easy walk for those who can.

MAINE

Vacant, ARCSE Representative

Email:

Editor's Note: John has stepped down as the Maine ARCSE Representative and would like to hand over the job to someone else.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

Email: daverastorfer@aol.com, moarscse@aol.com

Jim Rickman: Our garden is planted. The tomatoes are blooming but no sets yet.

We are going on a cruise to Tahiti with our kids the end of this month. Really, we fly to Tahiti and take a cruise around the islands. It is **Jere's** 80th birthday, and this is what she wanted.

We're still in good health. I volunteer to help with our local food bank, and we play a lot of games, mostly bridge.

Although we have been gone from Missouri for nearly 40 years, I still clearly remember all the great people I got to work with.

Mike Blaine: I have planted some garden and worked on the yard and flowerbeds. The storms of Easter weekend missed us and gave a small rain. I am thankful for that. The project for the spring is to take down three huge Ash trees close to the house that are victims of the Emerald Ash Borer. We are sad to lose those trees, but Ash sure makes good firewood. Best wishes to all!

Recent retirees: **Steve Hefner, Steve Wilson**

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

Emails: nkempf@neb.rr.com, j4culver@aol.com

The local weather for the most part has been good for our **First Friday** of the month breakfasts. We have had some good reports about NARFE activities and information about the new legislative bill in Nebraska, where Civil Service retirees are exempt from state income tax.

One of the activities of the First Friday of the Month Retirees Breakfast Group is to include something of interest about what is going on in Nebraska. For this issue our highlight is **Robin Foulk**, an outstanding recently retired SCS/NRCS District Conservationist at Chardon, Nebraska. Robin's 45 years of service with the Soil Conservation Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and her assistance with the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resource District have been remarkably influential and extraordinary. Her impact on conservation of natural resources has been consistent and of high value to the citizens of Northwest Nebraska. Her leadership with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation has been immense. She has hosted and assisted hosting numerous State and local SWCS meetings, President of Northeast and Panhandle SWCS Chapters, and president of the Nebraska SWCS. She is also a recipient of the National SWCS Fellowship Award.

Robin's energy, smile, positive outlook, and "can-do" attitude is certainly appreciated by all of the ranchers, farmers, units of government, Natural Resource Districts, and others she has worked with over the 45 years of her meritorious career. So in short – Robin – Congratulations for a job well done over your remarkable career!

First Friday of the month Breakfast Group –



Our March meeting attendance was great! Right to Left – Harold Klaege, Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Ed Chmelka, Bill Best, Doug Christensen, and Mike Kucerea.



Jim Harder, left is our coordinator. Meetings are very informal. Occasionally there are briefings on NARFE and some other NRCS-USDA issues. Left to right – Jim Harder, Mark Willoughby, Dennis Schroeder, Scott Willet, Dave Griffith, Ken Noonan and Steve Chick.

The April 17th, 2025 meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Doug Christensen**. Attending were **Harold Klaege, Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Thomas Reinsch, Larry Brown, Steve Stover, Dave Camper, Craig Derickson, Arlis Plummer, and Norm Kempf**.

Doug Christensen provided an overview of staff reductions at Nebraska NRCS because of the latest buyouts. Doug commented that NRCS leadership is working to keep a functional field delivery system in place. All indications are that these downsizing actions are likely to continue, and the retirees commented that they will be paying close attention to staffing, programs, and services at NRCS.

Harold Klaege encouraged the retirees to pay close attention to legislative actions being considered by Congress and spoke about NARFE's efforts to defend retirees' benefits. Harold also talked about changes with Medicare/Medicaid and associated insurance program proposals being considered, or rumored to be considered. The NARFE organization is a very good supporter of NRCS retirees and employees who are still working as well.

Norm Kempf informed the group that he had spoken with **Donna Dornbush** and she informed him that **Gus** was at the hospital getting some medical attention so they would not be attending today's meeting.

Harold Klaege and others mentioned the recent passing of **Keith Sheets' wife Maryalice** on March 6th, 2025. **Valerian "Val" Bohaty** died on March 15, 2025.

Thomas Reinsch mentioned that he recently rode his bike to Malcolm, Nebraska and back, for a total ride of about 30 miles. Tom is also planning a trip to Salt Lake City for a graduation ceremony of a family member. *[Editor's note: this would be quite a bike ride!]*

Norm Kempf is making plans to travel to Montana for his son's wedding on May 10th. His sister, who lives in Australia, will also be attending. They plan to travel to SD to visit friends and relatives before returning to Lincoln.

Craig Derickson announced that he and his wife **Kate** will be traveling to the Washington, DC area Easter weekend to visit their daughter's family and the grandkids.



There was excellent attendance for our April breakfast meeting. Steve Chick – right side on end noted he is working on the electronics on his depth finder as he and grandkids are planning for a Canada fishing trip on Lake Lac Suel.



Discussion going on about local events in the Lincoln area during the April 2025 breakfast. Right to Left – Eric Haderfeldet, Ed Chmelka, Doug Christensen, Dennis Schroeder, Jim Harder and Harold Klaege.



Our April 3rd Wednesday of the month breakfast meeting for February was canceled because of – 18 degrees temperatures and high winds. Our March meeting was the same day as the Nebraska Blizzard of snow and high winds. Only three brave venturous people made it to the March meeting – our chair Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost and Gary Muckel. Our hostess taking orders – Left to Right – Thomas Reinsch, Doug Christensen and Craig Derickson.



Weather was good as well as our attendance for our April breakfast meeting. Left to Right – Norman Kempf, Dave Camper, Harold Klaege, Thomas Reinsch, Doug Christensen, Craig Derickson, Larry Brown, Steve Scheinost, Steve Stover, and Arlis Plummer.

NEW JERSEY

Nancy Paolini, ARCSE Representative

Email: npaolini@comcast.net

Welcome new members

Coleen Churchill, Easton, PA

Maria Inuzzelli, Pennington, NJ

Linda Peterson, Flemington, NJ

Virtual Gathering March 25, 2025.

On March 25th eight of us met online via Google for a one-hour meeting to chat. Present were **Carl DuPoldt**, engineer; **Thornton Hole**, Soil Scientist; **Tom Iivari**, geologist; **Nancy Paolini**, Resource Conservationist; **Mona Peterson**, District Conservationist; **Barbara Phillips**, Public Affairs Specialist; **Linda Peterson**, Engineer; and **Ronnie Lee Taylor**, Soil Scientist.

Tom clocked in as being the longest retired (1972), and Mona is the most recent retiree of this group. Thorny had some issues with his microphone, but we are pretty sure he wins the prize for the oldest of the group. We had a lively exchange of stories from the Assumpink Flood Prevention Projects in Mercer County, which included some after-hours stories of chair racing down the Site 20 dam before it was completed. Site 20 is now a wonderful lake and park called Mercer Lake, right next to the Community College.

Where Are They Now?

Coming up with an article every two months is a bit of a challenge, so I have decided to start a series called "Where Are They Now". A few months ago we featured **Barbara Osgood**, 1st female State Conservationist and SC in NJ before she moved on to Washington, DC. This issue will feature **Janice Reid**, originally from NJ but now living in Florida.

Janice Reid: When I retired in 2013, I moved into a house we had built, located on a golf course in Palm Coast, Florida. We already also owned another house down the street, which we had bought during the economic downturn in 2011 to manage as a rental. Two years later, we bought a third house on another part of the golf course, where we moved in January 2016, and we turned the original house into a 2nd rental property. All the while, the neighborhood golf course was operating, but struggling. We knew what would happen if the golf course failed, because another golf course in town had closed, leaving those surrounding properties to absorb a 30% loss in value overnight. My husband, who loves a business challenge, was determined to save the course and save our real estate investments.

So, the long story short is: We officially took ownership of the Cypress Knoll Golf Course on October 2nd, 2016. On October 6th, 2016, hurricane Matthew ravaged the area, and we had our "welcome to Florida" moment. Thirty-nine trees that had fallen on the course and massive amounts of debris had to be removed, and it took several weeks for the water to recede. We were lucky to have a cadre of neighborhood volunteers assist our crew with cleanup, which included locating and renovating the existing drainage system to prevent future flooding. In retrospect, it was a great way to get to know key neighbors—relationships that continue today.

Obviously, bringing a golf course back to life was a challenge, but luck was on our side. The economy was improving, and the area was growing. Most importantly, we were able to hire a highly qualified Superintendent, a native Floridian who lives and breathes warm-season grasses. His stewardship has been instrumental in our success, and he has become a wonderful friend.



The golf course winds through a residential neighborhood, but it's also buffered by woods and wetlands, so that you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere. The wildlife like the area as well—including, of course, the alligators, who reside in all of our twelve lakes and two canals. We own 274 acres, with less than half of that as managed golf course. That leaves a lot of land for our resident turkeys, bobcats, sandhill cranes, turtles, and other wildlife to enjoy it as much as we do. Check out the website for great photos of the course and wildlife. I wonder what the golf fee is for these local residents below?



It sounds to me like a great place to visit if you're in the neighborhood. Bring along your clubs and appetite for their lovely club house/restaurant on the course. Look for more of these updates in the coming months. –Nancy

<https://www.cypressknollgolfandcountryclub.com/>

OKLAHOMA

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From **Larry Caldwell**, OCHS Secretary/Treasurer:

Here is an update on the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society's 90th anniversary events in April. Plans are coming together nicely. The programs and speakers are pretty much set. The following is the status of these events:

April 14th am: OCHS will be making presentations on Oklahoma Conservation History to the OACD's new Conservation Leadership class.

April 14th pm: Harn Homestead Event Center in Oklahoma City. This is an invitation only event to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Black Sunday. We have about 100 who have submitted an RSVP. There will be several legislators attending as well as agency leadership, etc. We will have a legislative proclamation presented.

April 22nd: Guymon, OK (panhandle community that was in the center of the Dust Bowl). This event is open to the public to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Black Sunday. The program will include a presentation by a historian from the local university as well as a panel discussion of dust bowl experiences. Kevin Norton, former NRCS Associate Chief, will be the keynote speaker. A special added attraction to the meeting is a "Taste of Dust Bowl" food. The Texas County Farm Bureau is making it possible for people to have the opportunity to experience a taste of some of the foods that were part of surviving the Dust Bowl. See attached flyer for this event.

April 28th: El Reno, OK: This is a public event to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. We will have several displays of SCS artifacts from the early days of the agency. We are working on getting a governor/legislative proclamation for presentation that day. Speakers include Kevin Norton, former NRCS Associate Chief, and Mason Mungle, former executive director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. This event will be held in the same facility as that for the National Land and Range Contest that begins the next day.

OCHS has received a grant from the Oklahoma Historical Society to support these events. We have also received donations from an Oklahoma Bank and the Farm Bureau. Oklahoma NRCS, OACD, and OCC have also been very supportive to help with these events.

OCHS has also worked with a local brewery to issue a special edition 90th anniversary commemorative beer! It has generated a lot of interest! See attached.

I will share the governor/legislative proclamations after they have been signed and issued.

Today, the Oklahoman newspaper included a guest opinion piece authored by **Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-3)**. See attached

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The Oregon retirees met for the spring quarter lunch on April 23rd, a beautiful day, at the Stir-Crazy Chinese Restaurant in Aloha: **Jim Marron, Leland Saele, Lowell Kenedy, Stefanie Aschmann, Ralph Wadleigh, Don Wallin, Rose Loehr, Kay Denfeld, Gail Voge, Dick Sylvester, Kathy Sylvester**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

A recurring theme in our discussion was several of us vowing to stay off ladders. Not a good thing to do when one gets old.

Jim Marron told us that he is enjoying not paying for gasoline. He is planning to upgrade to a Rivian. Rivian Automotive is an American company that specializes in electric vehicles and automotive technology. It was founded in 2009 by RJ Scaringe and is headquartered in Irvine, California.

Leland Saele and his family recently took a trip to the Big Island in Hawaii. Memorable was seeing Kilauea volcano erupt while at its visitor center. A grandson helped him perfect riding a boogie board. Leland also told us of the fun he had cleaning up a mess he made putting sudsing soap in the dishwasher.



Leland Saele took this picture on April 1st at 6:30pm HST of the Kilauea volcano summit eruption from the visitor center 2.5 miles away.

Ralph Wadleigh is looking forward to meeting with an organization that provides assistance so senior citizens can continue to live in their homes. **Dick and Kathy Sylvester** bemoaned having an accident at the end of February that totaled their almost brand-new car. After two months of insurance issues still has not been resolved.

Kay Denfeld has been busy. Recently she spent a week at the coast with some classmates from her high school class—something they do every year. She is now taking lessons to play a dulcimer. Kay is also making plans to build a ukulele. **Stefanie Aschmann** recently took a trip to Guanajuato, Mexico. It is in the center of Mexico, northwest of Mexico City. It has an average altitude of 6,611 feet that can be troublesome to visitors. Guanajuato is known for its colorful streets, underground tunnels, and lively festivals. It's a city that feels like stepping into a storybook!

Rose Loehr reported that last year she had a wonderful fishing trip in Alaska. She is making plans to go again this year. However, this time she will take a cruise with a friend and visit a location where they can view bears ahead of fishing. **Gail Voge** recently took a trip to Phoenix to watch a great-nephew play in a soccer tournament. They also took a trip to the Grand Canyon, which she found grand beyond her expectations.

The summer quarter lunch is planned for July 23rd at Elmer's Restaurant on NE 181st Avenue.

TEXAS NORTH

Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative

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Ronald Hillard wrote: **Edith** and I have just completed working the Ranching and Wildlife Committee, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Young Guns Competition. There were 531 youth representing 141 Texas Chapters of 4-H and FFA at the three-day event February 7th–9th, hosted at the Greater Houston Sport Club. Youth competed in 5 Stand, Trap and Skeet events, and shot 101,500 rounds of shotguns shells. We as volunteers contributed roughly 2,400 hours and prepared approximately 5,000 meals for the youth, coaches and families in attendance.

Our next event will be the World Championship BBQ COOKOFF February 27th and 28th, and March 1st, prior to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo which opens March 4th and runs through March 23rd.

John Mueller wrote: **Kate** and I were busy over the Final Four Weekend held recently in San Antonio. Our son-in-law graduated from Duke and is a huge sports fan, as is his older brother. They both got tickets to the semifinal games while we decided to stay home and enjoy time with our daughter and grandsons. Duke led most of the game, but Houston came back to win, so they were not very happy with the results. But, we still enjoyed catching up with everyone and watching some really competitive games.

Also, I was just appointed to serve as the Vice President: South Region for ARCSE and will be taking over for **Bill Kuenstler** who is stepping down. A primary function will be to coordinate with the state reps on ongoing activities and relay any new information back to those reps.

The Texas SCS/NRCS Retirees Reunion was held April 15–16, 2025 at the LaQuinta Inn in Belton, Texas. About 50 people attended.

On Tuesday April 15th a golf tournament was held at Sammons Golf Course in Temple, Texas. On Wednesday April 16th registration and visiting started at 9am. The meeting started at 10am lead by Chairman **Charles Melton**.

A highlight of the meeting was an update of NRCS activities in Texas by **Kristy Oates**, Texas State Conservationist. Ms Oates was not sure how many Texas employees the NRCS would have after recent offers for buyouts. She stated that despite news media reports on cancelling leases for office space, she had not been told by NRCS officials in Washington that the State NRCS office would be moving. She has not been told that any NRCS offices would be closed or moved.

Marcus Hill, CEO of Ag Workers Insurance, gave an interesting update on the insurance business. He pointed out that no other auto insurance company, even other mutual companies, could match Ag. Workers rates because Ag. Workers do not have agents.

Ag. Workers provided a free meal for the attendees and stated that they would do the same thing next year. The group voted to have next year's reunion on April 14th–15th, 2026 at the same location. After enjoying the meal raffle items were passed out to winners.



Texas Retirees Reunion

WEST VIRGINIA

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James Steven Hill, 78, of Weston, passed away on Saturday, March 1st, 2025. See the In Memoriam section for more details. When Jim retired in 2002, he was the district conservationist in Lewis and Harrison counties while also serving as the state grassland specialist. Jim is well known for advancing grazing management practices in West Virginia. Jim worked with local farmers, NRCS field staff, conservation partners and NRCS economist Pam Yost to prove that better pasture management improved the bottom line for most producers.

Mother Nature has tested West Virginia recently. **Governor Patrick Morrisey** declared a state of emergency. Boone, Cabell, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mercer, McDowell, Mingo, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties suffered devastating floods and extreme weather conditions in February. The damage probably would have been more severe without the 170 flood control dams designed and built by SCS and NRCS since 1954.

Easter plans were shredded for a large number of NRCS retirees and their neighbors when high winds knocked out power in Monongalia, Preston, Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties. Monongalia County took the brunt of the storm with nearly half of the residents In Monongalia County without power. It took Mon Power nearly five days to restore power.

WISCONSIN

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In Wisconsin, the first luncheon meeting of the year is held in the southwestern part of the state. On March 27th, 12 retirees met in Richland Center at the Richland Family Restaurant. **Keith Behling** was our host. After the luncheon, Keith also guided us on a tour of the PL-566 Pine River Watershed Dedication Project that was built during the later 80s and early 90s.



(L-R) Ceil Simonson, Duane Simonson



(L-R) Mary King, Michele Wilkinson, Betty Stibbe, Keith Behling, Jerry Stibbe



(L-R) Susan Gundlach, Howard Gundlach



(L-R) Mike Lieurance, Deb LeGear, Ted Manning present but not pictured)

Tour of PL-566 Project



Dike



Channel



Footbridge extends above the overflow area



Overflow area

The overflow area has a controlled burn annually. 58 firefighters are there to control the burn, and it is also used as training for firefighters.

I drove from Eau Claire to Richland Center with **Mark King** to attend the luncheon. We had some spare time so we stopped off at the Pier County Park in Richland County to see the Natural Rockbridge.



Footbridge that goes through the rock



Pictured: Deb LeGear, Mark King in the background



Pier County Park Natural Bridge in Richland County

Wisconsin retirees met at Grizzly's in Eau Claire on April 24th. Eau Claire is in the northwestern part of the state. We had a large group of 26 in attendance. It was a pleasant spring day with new faces in the group.



(L-R) Louis Barber, Emeron (Chris) Christensen, Steve Rake, Phyllis Christensen, Kathy Barber



(L-R) Mike Koehler, Mary Evitch



(L-R) Tim Meyer, Carol Meyer, Susan Gundlach, Howard Gundlach



(L-R) Connie Cogger, Tom Cogger



(L-R) Keith Widdel, Ted Manning, Jay Custer, Lisa Custer



(L-R) Rick Zirk, Judy Derricks, Mary King, Roger Dahl



(L-R) Mary Evitch, Deb LeGear



(L-R) Lynnette Enlow, Jim Enlow, Mary Price, Vic Price

WYOMING

John Peterson reporting from Campbell County. The picture shows family who made it there for Easter. They had 15 at Daughter Kathie Bailey's home for Easter Dinner.



SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS – Paul Benedict.

Senior Conservationists have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire (download at <https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com/senior-conservationists/>). See IN-MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who have left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.

Are You a Senior Conservationist?

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

The recognition of senior conservationists began many years ago to salute retirees of the Soil Conservation Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service for their efforts in building and maintaining a very strong agency. For most SCS/NRCS retirees, their work with the agency was much more than just a job. Their work centered around an ethic of desiring to protect our soil, water, and other natural resources for future generations by serving the public through promotion of wise voluntary stewardship of the land. Many retirees have continued those efforts into retirement through volunteering, consulting, or just providing perspective and advice to younger generations on how conservation has changed over the years. The Senior Conservationist recognition honors these individuals.

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

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

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Bell	2022	Iris Glynn (Roberts) Bell (87) of Worland, Wyoming, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on April 30, 2022. Iris was the wife of Senior Conservationist Jimmy Ray Bell , retired Range Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Iris was born on July 16, 1934, to Joseph W. and Clara Mae Roberts in Kelly, Louisiana. After high school, Iris attended Tulane University in New Orleans, where she studied nursing. In the summer of 1953, Iris's family moved from Lake Charles to Colorado City, Texas for her father's job. There she met Jimmy Ray Bell, and they married on August 8, 1953 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Jimmy's work required several moves, but Iris' career kept moving up too. In 1968, she started as a teacher's aide, then school secretary, Insurance office manager, compliance officer for EF Hutton, and eventually she became the Assistant Vice President and Operations Manager for the branch. Iris was a member of Big Horn Independent Baptist Church. Iris is preceded in death by her son Bob Bell, great-granddaughter Isabelle Jean Bell, and great-grandson Steven Apodaca.

Berry	2025	Former USDA-Soil Conservation Service Forester Donald Lewis Berry (71) of Boise, Idaho, passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise on March 26, 2025, two weeks after a diagnosis of stomach cancer. Don was born in Kansas City, Kansas, to Dorothy and Joe Berry on May 20, 1953. After high school, Don's love of adventure inspired his moves first to Los Angeles for two years at Immaculate Heart College and then to Northern California to attend Humboldt State University. He graduated with a degree in Forest Science and began a 9-year career in California with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service working in soil conservation, forest management and as a wildland firefighter. After receiving his MBA from Stanford University, Don began his second career with Trus Joist in wood products manufacturing and operations in Eugene and Junction City, Oregon, later moving into Trus Joist's corporate environment in Boise. He held various positions eventually becoming Vice President of Manufacturing Operations. Don served as CEO for Boise nonprofit Create Common Good and sat on multiple boards of directors including the Family Advocate Program, Gritman Medical Center Foundation, College of Western Idaho and others. In 2018 he was named Boise's BBBS Big Brother of the Year. Don loved being in nature whether golfing, hiking or cycling. He walked 20+ miles per week to workouts at Body Basics. He loved trees and his weekly breakfasts with the boys. He loved his sprint workouts and he loved track meets, especially the Olympic trials at Eugene's Hayward Field. As a true Kansan he loved his Chiefs! There were many exciting travel adventures with his son Jason. They went on safari in Africa, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and hiked to Machu Picchu in Peru. In 2023 Don and wife Kathy went on a polar expedition to the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard and took a month-long trek through Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania in 2024. Don is survived by his wife Kathy Simpson, son Jason (Joy) and daughter Emily, and his unborn first grandchild.
Bertolaccini	2025	Joseph Carver "Joe" Bertolaccini (89) of Orrington, Maine, passed away on March 20, 2025, at home surrounded by his family. Joe was born on January 14, 1936, in Rhode Island, the son of Raymond and Doris Bertolaccini of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University in 1958, and later, his Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Hydrology) from the University of Connecticut in 1968. He was a licensed professional engineer. Joe married his wife of 65 years, Eleanor Grace Howlett of Medford, Massachusetts, on November 14, 1959. In 1974, Joe and Ellie moved to Brewer, Maine. Joe dedicated most of his professional life to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1991 as a Hydraulic Engineer after 33 years of committed service. A man of deep faith, Joe was an active member of Saint Paul the Apostle Parish in Bangor and lived out his faith daily with unwavering integrity, passion and generosity. An enthusiastic outdoorsman, Joe was a certified Maine Guide, former president of Trout Unlimited, founding member of the Penobscot Fly Fishers, member of the Downeast Outing Club, and an expert fly fisherman. Joe began tying flies in 1955 and took great joy in teaching the craft to others, especially his children and grandchildren. Joe was a regular columnist for Northwoods Sporting Journal and authored a book on the Fundamentals of Fly Fishing. Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Ellie; his children, Steven Bertolaccini (Debbie); Sandra Babin (Stephen); Joseph Bertolaccini (Christine); Amy Bertolaccini (Collin); his cherished grandchildren, Kelly Bertolaccini (Ned Eskew), Bailey Carver (Carson), Christy Forbush (Nikolas), Ryan Babin (Kristen), Sarah Moore (Jacob), Corinne Bertolaccini, Kara Cobb (Ben), Erica Bertolaccini, Ezra Halliday, and Maria Olie; and his nine beloved great-grandchildren: Luciana, Eleonora, Carver, Easton, Grace, Ezekiel, Evelyn, Noelle, and Jeremiah Joseph (JJ). He was preceded in death by his grandson Matthew.
Bohaty	2025	Valerian (Val) James Bohaty (90) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away peacefully on the evening of March 15, 2025, holding the hand of his beloved wife, Darlene. Val was born at home on the family farm to James and Marie (Rerucha) Bohaty of Bruno, Nebraska. Val moved to Lincoln to pursue a bachelor's degree in agriculture at the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1956. He proposed to and married his sweetheart, Darlene, in 1957 before settling in Unadilla, Nebraska. Their growing family moved to Lincoln in 1970, where sons Mark and Gary grew up with forever friends on the "Eldon Drive Boys." Val worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist for 40+ years, including serving as the District Conservationist in Lincoln. He carefully terraced the family farm between Bruno and Abie, a sanctuary for Val, where he taught his sons the joys of hunting and fishing, and the value of good old-fashioned hard work. An expert marksman, Val served his country with that gift from 1957 to 1959, including being stationed in Germany after he was drafted. Val never knew a stranger – just old friends he hadn't met yet. It always started with a smirk and quickly progressed to knowing their whole life story, in only a few minutes. Val delighted in the small joys of life, from a cup of coffee shared with his Soil Conversation group every Friday at Village Inn (and monthly at Stauffer's), to the desserts he would often eat first, "to be sure he had room." Surpassing Val's love for dessert was his love for his family. In addition to his parents, Val is preceded in death by his son, Mark Bohaty; and sister, Carol Lee (Hoyt). He is survived by his loving wife, Darlene; his son, Gary (Paula); granddaughters, Brianna and Carissa; his daughter-in-law, Rhonda (granddaughters, Noelle and Chloe); his sister, Rose Marie Kadavy; sisters-in-law, Carma (husband, John) Schmidt and Gin (husband, Lee Roy) Swanson; and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.
Branham	2025	Charles Edward Branham (89) of Saint Joseph, Missouri, passed away March 28, 2025, at his home. Charles was born October 15, 1935, in Springfield, Colorado, son of the late Esther and Sam Branham. He graduated from the Oklahoma Panhandle State University with a bachelor's degree in Soil Science. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He was the Project Leader for the Pottawattamie County, Iowa, Soil Survey. Charles enjoyed watching sports, especially the Kansas City Chiefs and Denver Broncos. He also loved his church. Charles was preceded in death by wife, Sheila Branham, in 1995. Survivors include daughter, Megan (Norman) Talbott of Saint Joseph, son, Shane (Barb) Branham of Charlotte, North Carolina, six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. Funeral services were held April 9, 2025 at the Rupp Funeral Home, followed by interment at the Garner Township Cemetery.
Brubacher	2023	Senior Conservationist John Irwin Brubacher (97) of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away on November 22, 2023. John was born in Alamosa, Colorado on February 12, 1926. The middle son of three brothers, he grew up in the San Luis Valley on the family potato farm. He lived there until graduating from high school where he was valedictorian and star track and basketball athlete. He was then drafted into the Army Air Force, where he served during World War II. His duty was as a ball turret belly gunner on a B-17 bomber, last stationed in England until his honorable discharge and return to the States. He was quite proud of his service. He married the love of his life, Leona Turman, on June 15, 1951. He used the G-I bill to go to college, first attending Adams State College for two years followed by two more years at Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University), where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. John, being in the study of soils and geology, is famous for stating numerous times to his family, "I hope there is a video in heaven that I can watch to see how all of this great earth was formed!" He spent his career working as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring as State Soil Scientist in 1986. John is survived by his children Rod (Pam) Brubacher, Karen (John)

		Sprengle, Debra (Michael) Flynn, Bob (Karen) Brubacher; 10 grandchildren and soon to be 12 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Leona in 2020.
Buettgenbach	2025	Terry Buettgenbach (76) of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away February 26, 2025, surrounded by his immediate family. Terry was born in Wichita, Kansas, on March 13, 1948 Josephine and Ralph "Bud" Buettgenbach. In 1970, he married the love of his life, Rosemary Lutz, in Wichita, Kansas. He served as a yeoman in the United States Navy during the Vietnam conflict upon the USS St Louis and USS St Paul. He worked in the communications room and gained the nickname "Tree" thanks to his 6ft 4in frame. He served from 1968 to 1974. He received an Honorable Discharge and many commendations: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medals, Vietnam Service Medal with a Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendations Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross). After serving 4 active years in the Navy, he attended Kansas State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management in 1975. He worked for 38 years for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Those decades of work took him to many small towns in Kansas, then to St. Louis, Missouri, Lincoln, Nebraska, and finally planting roots in Fort Collins, Colorado. As one of the original authors of the NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook, his impact on the agency's conservation program delivery was substantial. Terry dabbled in many hobbies. He was a lover of books and was often found outside reading them in the Colorado sun. He whittled walking sticks, made beautiful jewelry out of stones and sterling silver, and crafted many homemade knives. He taught a class at the local Senior Citizen Center on making home movies. From a young age, he loved to fish, and he liked to share this activity with his sons and other family members. In his retirement, he volunteered with his wife in doing emergency SEAS assistance and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). He was a great lover of tacos and found any excuse to have them. He is survived by his loving spouse of over 54 years, Rosemary Buettgenbach, and their four children: Eric Buettgenbach, Kathryn Zawadowych (Marko), Daniel Buettgenbach and Megan Buettgenbach, and by his brothers Gary Buettgenbach (Sherry), their son Matthew (Abigail Klein) and Michael Buettgenbach (Melanie).
Cooper	2024	Member Donald Lee Cooper (90) of Dwight, Kansas (formerly of Manhattan, Kansas), passed away August 26, 2024, in Dwight. Don was born on September 16, 1933, on the family farm in Oshkosh, Garden County, Nebraska, the son of Jesse Floyd and Nellie Fern (Atkinson) Cooper. In August of 1951 he attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. In 1953 he was drafted into the United States Army and served his basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. He served in the 16th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Armored Division in Baumholder, German, as the Communication Chief. On July 29, 1956, in Osborne, Kansas, at the Osborne United Methodist Church he was united in marriage to Jewell Merriam Britt. After his honorable discharge from the Army, he attended Kansas State University and earned his bachelor's degree in Technical Agronomy in May of 1958. Following his graduation, he accepted a position with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Wichita, Kansas, as a soil conservationist. In 1961 he was assigned to the Anthony, Kansas field office. He was later reassigned to offices in Columbus, Kansas, and again to Anthony, as the Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in Minneapolis, Kansas. In March 1979 he became the District Conservationist in Geary and Riley County office in Manhattan. He retired on December 31, 1988. Jewell preceded him in death in 1964, while the family was living in Columbus, Kansas. Don was a member of College Avenue United Methodist Church in Manhattan. He was incredibly involved in OCTA (Oregon California Trail Association). On August 23, 1965, in Columbus, he was married to Mary Jane O'Banion Moore at the First United Methodist Church. He adopted Mary Jane's children: Mary Virginia "Ginger," who was seven and Richard Jackson, who was four. Mary Jane passed away in 1986 and his daughter Ginger passed away in 2022. Don is survived by his sons, Brad Cooper (Sonia) of Inman, Kansas, and Richard Cooper (Andrea) of Baxter Springs, Kansas, and his daughter Pam Switzer (Scott) of Dwight, Kansas; his grandchildren: Matthew Wiebe, Adam Wiebe (Andrea), Emily Spittles (Dustin), Crystal Lamb (Keith), Holly Cooper, Sky Cooper, Lane Cooper, Kyla Kane, Kristy Tanner (Brad) and 3 great-grandkids, 1 great-great grandson.
Dalzell	2023	Life and Honorary ARCSE Member David Wayne "Dub" Dalzell (92) of Champaign, Illinois, passed away on June 21, 2023, at Country Healthcare and Rehab in Gifford, Illinois. David was born on August 22, 1930, in Broadlands, Illinois, the son of William Wayne and Helen David Dalzell. He married Peggy Bolton in July 1951 in Broadlands. David was a United States Air Force veteran. He worked as a budget officer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the Champaign State Office. He retired in 1989. David was a member of First United Methodist Church, Champaign. He was a member of the American Legion, Champaign. David was also a long-time youth baseball coach and was the coach for the American Legion team. He was also an avid bowler for over 60 years. David was a lifelong Cubs fan and University of Illinois sports fan. Survivors include his wife Peggy, two sons Mark (Jacque) Dalzell of Savoy, Illinois, and Scott (Ruthann) Dalzell of Crystal Lake, Illinois and one daughter Lori (Rich) Wells of Bradenton, Florida; and six grandchildren Ian, Connor, Zach, Emma, Nathan and Luke.
Dingle	2024	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member Charles Harlan Dingle (99) Exeter, New Hampshire, passed away June 14, 2024, after a brief illness. Charles was born on August 31, 1924, in Ottumwa, Iowa the son of Moses and Estella Harlan Dingle. He served 2 1/2 years in the United States Coast Guard during World War II. After the war he graduated from Iowa State University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. He married Beverly Taylor June 8, 1952, in Independence, Iowa where he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Charles worked for SCS for 30 years, first throughout Iowa in the early years and was later transferred from Des Moines, Iowa to Durham, New Hampshire in 1961 where he served as the State Engineer and later Assistant State Conservationist. After retirement in 1980, he did some engineering consulting work and in 1983 was elected to the New Hampshire State Legislature where he served 3 terms on the Resource Recreation and Development Committee. Charles was a member of the Community Church of Durham for many years and took an active part on a number of committees. He also served on the Board of University of New Hampshire Campus Ministry. Charles spent 6 years on the Durham Zoning Board of Adjustment and participated in several other town committees related to long term planning. He also participated in a water testing program in the town of Durham. Charles was a lifelong member of the Mason's Lodge in Ottumwa and a member of the New Hampshire Farm Museum for many years and served on the Board for 8 years - two of which were as president. He enjoyed painting, playing golf, fishing, camping and attending to his yard and flower beds. Charles survived his wife Beverly, who passed away after 69 wonderful years together in 1921. Survivors include daughters Rebecca Brayden (Joe) of South Burlington, Vermont, and Sarah Doyle (Kevin) of Hingham, Massachusetts; grandchildren Grace and George Doyle, Ben Brayden (Kari), Tom Brayden (Jenn) as well as 4 great grandchildren Callie, Holden, Gordon and Everett.
Farrar	2023	Senior Conservationist Ruby Mai Farrar (98) of Nashville, Tennessee, passed away on November 21, 2023, in Nashville. Ruby was born on May 11, 1925, to Myrtle and Carroll Blanton in Bedford County, Tennessee. She was a 1943 graduate

		<p>of Community High School in Unionville, Tennessee. After high school, she attended Nashville Business College. She worked at the Tennessee School for the Blind, and lived there with her aunt and uncle, Marye and Richard Blanton. There she met her future husband, William Parks Farrar, whose parents also worked and lived at the school. She joined McKendree United Methodist Church in Nashville, just prior to her wedding there on March 17, 1945, to William Parks Farrar. They were married for 51 years until Parks' death in 1996. She worked as a secretary for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service state office in Nashville until her retirement in 1990. In her retirement, she enjoyed many travels around the US with her dear friend, Marie Craighead, and other seniors from the Middle Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church. She was very active at McKendree, serving in the United Methodist Women, the Jubilate Senior Choir, and as a church office volunteer. She also enjoyed her hobbies of knitting and being an avid reader. Survivors include her son-in-law, Floyd Elliott, Jr; her 6 grandchildren: Gary Mitchell, Carolee Meredith, Justin and Brian Elliott, and Jake and Stacy Farrar; and her 9 great-grandchildren: Farrah and Matthew Meredith, Connor and Owen Mitchell, Parks and Marin Ruby Elliott, Charles Kades, and Shapard and Collins Farrar.</p>
Fetterer	2021	<p>Honorary ARCSE Member Dominic "Dom" Fetterer (93) of Southport, North Carolina passed away on April 14, 2021. Dom was born December 11, 1927, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to the late Benedict and Eleanore Fetterer. Dom was a veteran of the United States Navy, having served in Japan and China during World War II and in Hawaii during the Korean Conflict as an aerial photographer and staff photographer for the commander of the Pacific Fleet. He retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1983 after 36 years of service. After his retirement, he worked as a real estate appraiser in Northern Virginia. In December of 1989 he and his wife Arlyne moved to Southport, North Carolina. He was an avid woodworker and crafted and provided his works to the local community. Dom served on the founding board of Habitat for Humanity in Brunswick County and volunteered with the Southport - Oak Island Interchurch Food Pantry. Throughout his life, he lived in many areas, and was always active in many civic organizations, his local parish, and the Knights of Columbus. At Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Southport, he served on the finance council and was head usher. Dom served as National Association of Retired Federal Employees at the state and local level as financial officer for many years. At the time of his death, Dom was survived by his wife of 69 years, Arlyne Fetterer. She passed away 11 weeks later on July 5, 2021. Dom and Arlyne are survived by six children, Kathryn Matthews (Dave), Thomas Fetterer (Florence), James Fetterer (Linda), Ann O'Hagan (Michael), Lynn Ruiz (Steve), and George Fetterer (Azita); eight grandchildren, David, Kelly, Joseph, Stuart, Christopher, Lydia, Isabelle, and Eleanor; and three great-grandchildren, Avery, Eli, and Aspen.</p>
Garner	2025	<p>Billy Jack Garner (97) of Lampasas, Texas, passed away on March 6, 2025, with his family by his side on the ranch he loved. Jack was born on the family ranch in Lampasas, Texas to Milton Edward and Dicie Beatrice Garner. While in Lampasas schools, he met the love of his life, Jo Ann Witcher. After graduating from Lampasas High School, he continued his education at Texas A&M University earning a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering. Jack and Jo Ann married in 1949 at the First Baptist Church in Lampasas. He was commissioned a lieutenant in the United States Army 45th Infantry Division and was sent overseas to fight in the Korean War. Jack worked as an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 40 years in various towns, but was in Harlingen, Texas for many years. Jack was a faithful Christian and member of the Methodist Church throughout his life. He was also an active Mason for more than 70 years. After retirement, Jack and Jo Ann moved to the family ranch in Lampasas County. Jack and Jo Ann celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in August 2024 with a big family celebration. Jack was preceded in death by his son, Paul. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann, his daughter, Debby (Ross) Hardin, his son, Mark (Connie) Garner, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.</p>
Gaskell	2024	<p>Lorraine Mildred Gaskell (94) of Derby, Kansas (formerly of Chanute, Kansas) passed away September 13, 2024. Lorraine was the wife of Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member Luther James "Jim" Gaskell, retired Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Lorraine was born on a farm near Clifton, Kansas, on December 5, 1929, to Gilbert and Mary Piper. After high school she attended Kansas State University for two years. On August 13, 1950, she married Jim at Overbrook Methodist Church. She was a devoted member of Westview Baptist Church, where she spent many years volunteering in the church library and nursery. She was also active in the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. Lorraine is survived by her devoted husband of 74 years, Jim; her two children, Barbara and Dan (Cindy); seven grandchildren: Tony Parker of Kansas, Jason Phillips (Heather) of Minnesota, Brenda Perdue of Kentucky, Candace Showalter (Justin) of Kansas, Kat Phipps of Kansas, Candace Carlson (Kevin) of California, and Chelsea Reiswig (Jason) of Kansas; eight great-grandchildren: Ady and Ainsley Phillips, Alexander and Jack Perdue, Connor and Gavin Showalter, and Brecken and Maddox Reiswig.</p>
Graham	2025	<p>John David Graham (84) of Gardners, Pennsylvania, passed away unexpectedly on March 5, 2025. John was born in Monroeville, Pennsylvania on July 2, 1940. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University and served three years in the Pennsylvania National Guard. After 37 years as a civil engineer working in flood control and water resources projects at several government agencies (USDA-Soil Conservation Service and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission), he retired. He loved to travel and meet people from other cultures. He visited state and national parks across the United States and Canada and journeyed overseas to 15 countries, his favorite being Tanzania where he camped with his wife and fellow travelers on the Serengeti. In his spare time, he enjoyed gardening, especially raising tomatoes, tinkering on anything mechanical, and birdwatching. John is survived by his wife, Eileen (Scofield) Graham; sons, Kirk Graham (Sue) and Lisle Graham (Dana Huggins); sisters, Clara Sadowsky and Graham Park; brothers, Harry Graham and Mark Graham; nieces and nephews; and his dog, Izzy.</p>
Haberman	2024	<p>Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member Roger Lee Haberman (90) of Larned, Kansas, passed away December 20, 2024, at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. Roger was born August 23, 1934, in Larned; the son of Emil August and Hulda Ruth Boese Haberman. He was a Soil Scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and was in charge of several Kansas soil surveys. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Larned. Roger was a proud Kansas State University graduate and longtime alumni. On December 28, 1957, he married Janice Nicholson at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Larned. She passed away in 2000. Survivors include five daughters, Terri Torres, Salina, Kansas, Sheri Haberman, Vancouver, Washington, Lori Haldy, Ketchikan, Alaska, Leah (Lee) Gavre, Garrison, Nebraska, and Lisa (Mark) Kimitsuka, Kent, Washington; two brothers, Bob (Elsie) Haberman, Meade and Don Haberman, Lacey, Washington; a sister, Betty (Gary) Hulsey, Larned; seven grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren.</p>

Hall	2025	<p>Life and Honorary ARCSE Member Howard W. Hall (97) of Quarryville, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025. Howard was born December 31, 1927, with his twin sister Helen, in a little farmhouse in southern Iowa, near Kellerton. After high school, Howard spent 18 months in the United States Army working as a surgical technician in the base hospital at Camp Lee, Virginia. He arrived home in July, just in time to register for college at Graceland Junior College in Lamoni, Iowa. The next year he moved to Iowa State College where in four years he earned a degree in Agricultural Engineering. His degree was not the only thing he received from Iowa State, it was there he met his college sweetheart, Linda BreDahl, of Greenfield, Iowa, whom he later married. After graduation, Howard worked as an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Shenandoah, Iowa. His work included survey, design and construction supervision of small earth dams for gully control, flood control, water supply and recreation. After working in Iowa for 16 years, Howard transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska for 9 years, then moved in 1977 to Newtown Square, Pennsylvania where he finished his 40-year career with the SCS. After retirement, Howard and Linda decided, due to their country background, they would be happier in a more country setting, so they moved to a house near Quarryville, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Howard joined the Methodist church in high school and was a member for more than 80 years. He was a member at Memorial United Methodist Church in Quarryville for 27 of those years. Howard and family enjoyed hiking and camping and spent many vacations in the Colorado and Wyoming mountains. They also canoed on the Minnesota lakes and streams. After moving to Pennsylvania, Linda and Howard joined a square dance club and became avid square dance fans. Linda developed cancer, and after a long battle she died in 1997. Other interests of Howard's were studying various subjects (Art, Language, History, Religion, Science) and writing poetry. After living alone for 12 years after his wife died, it was time for other arrangements, so Howard moved to QPRC (Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community) where he lived for the remainder of his life. It was a good choice, with good friends and, when needed, living support. Howard is survived by 3 children, Rosalie (Robert) of Middleton, Wisconsin, Mark (Suwimon) of Hastings, Nebraska, and Timothy (Katherine) of Gaithersburg, Maryland; 5 grandchildren, two step grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.</p>
Hardy	2022	<p>Life and Honorary ARCSE Member Richard Wayland Hardy (94) of Salisbury, Maryland, passed away on October 8, 2022, after a brief illness. He was born on the 4th of July 1928 and raised in Dummerston, Vermont. Richard attended the University of Vermont where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He was a Veteran of the United States Army who served during the Korean War. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and retired as a District Conservationist in 1987. Richard is preceded in death by his loving wife of 66 years Roena Jones Hardy in 2020. Richard and Roena spent many winters in Sebring, Florida where Richard was a Ruritan member. They were active members of the Church of the Brethren. In the summer they attended Asbury United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, MD and in later years attended Fruitland Christian Church. Richard enjoyed camping with the Delmarva Campers Club as well as making funnel cakes for the Ruritan Club Carnival held in Princess Anne, MD. Richard is survived by his two children Steve Hardy (Beth) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Hazel Beauchamp of Salisbury, Maryland. Richard was a proud grandfather of Stephen Hardy and Savannah Beauchamp.</p>
Henry	2019	<p>Senior Conservationist Wallace Lanier Henry (93) of Pontotoc, Mississippi passed away peacefully at his home on November 27, 2019, with his entire family and loved ones at his side. Wallace was born September 22, 1926. During World War II, Wallace served as an Honor Guard for General Douglas MacArthur and lived at the United States Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. While difficult at times, his service was a tremendous source of pride throughout his life. Wallace completed high school upon returning from the war, then continued his studies and earned a degree in vocational education from Mississippi State University in 1951. Wallace taught veterans classes in Randolph and Pontotoc, Mississippi for five years before moving to Tunica, Mississippi to teach vocational-agriculture classes and served as fire-chief at the Volunteer Fire Department. Wallace taught in Tunica until 1966, then briefly worked with Delta Steel in West Memphis, Arkansas before starting work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Wallace advanced to District Soil Conservationist for Lee County and continued to serve for a total of twenty-eight years. Wallace was raised on his family's farm and operated his own cattle, soybean, corn and tree farm throughout his time in Pontotoc. He was an avid gardener and always had a large garden filled with a variety of family favorites. Wallace loved giving corn, tomatoes, and turnip greens to friends and family (and anyone else). He was well-respected as an authority on farming techniques, land-management, erosion-control, and many other topics. He was always willing to help anyone who needed him. Wallace was a member of the Masonic Lodge for sixty-three years. He was also active with Lee County Civitan Club for decades while working in Tupelo. He was an ordained Baptist deacon at Green Valley Baptist Church and was a member of First Baptist Church of Pontotoc. Wallace is survived by his wife of over sixty years, Patricia Young Henry. He is also survived by daughter Alma Jo Henry of Flowood, Mississippi; son Wally Henry (Jodi) and three sons Trey, Ryan and Joseph of Pontotoc; son, George Henry (Kristian) and daughter Ashlyn of Cleveland, Tennessee.</p>
Hill	2025	<p>James Steven Hill (78) of Weston, West Virginia, passed away on March 1, 2025. Jim was born on December 15, 1946, in Union, West Virginia, a son of the late Jimmy Joy Hill and Hazel Fern Hatcher. He graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He served two years in the United States Army on active duty followed by 19 years in the National Guard, retiring in 1990 with the rank of Major. While attending WVU, Jim began working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He was a soil conservationist in Keyser, Hamlin, and Elkins, West Virginia, and Rockville and Hagerstown, Maryland. Jim was the District Conservationist in Lewis and Harrison Counties, West Virginia. From 1996 until retirement in 2002, he was the State Grassland Specialist for NRCS. Jim attended St. Patrick Catholic Church in Weston. Jim's survivors include his wife of 42 years, Betty Lee Rowgh Hill, son, Matthew Steven Hill (Sarah) of Fairmont, West Virginia, and granddaughter, Emily C. Hill of Morgantown, West Virginia. Jim was preceded in death by a daughter, Melanie Suzanne Hill. A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 6, 2025, with Father T. Matthew Rowgh as Celebrant, followed by services at Forest Lawn Memorial Garden of Jane Lew, West Virginia with full military honors conducted by the United States Army and the Lewis County Honor Guard.</p>
Kelley	2025	<p>Obie Gene Kelley, Jr. (71) of Rotan, Texas, passed away March 10, 2025. Obie was born on April 12, 1953, in Rotan, Texas, to Obie Gene and Patsy Lee Kelley. At Texas Tech University, he earned a degree in Agriculture. He then went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service. His career took him all over West Texas. He was the District Conservationist in Post, Texas before his final post as the Resource Leader in Amarillo, Texas. Obie leaves behind a family who adored him and his endless tales of mischief. Obie loved reminiscing about his childhood adventures, especially his times at Rough Creek and working cattle alongside his lifelong friend, Dee Whittington. He also cherished the incredible friendships he built during his time at Texas Tech. Survivors include his</p>

		devoted wife of 34 years, Freda Mae Kelley. His son, Dru Murray, and wife Mitzi, along with their children—Chandler, Cutter, Hank, and his great-granddaughter Callie Jo (aka. Calico). His daughter, Beth Hime, and her children, Harlee and Gavin Lingo. His brother, Nathan Kelley, and wife Tammie of Rotan. His nephew, Guy Kelley. His niece, Lindy, and her husband, Jubal Williamson.
Lamborn	2024	Life Member Charles F. "Chuck" Lamborn (100) of Mount Gilead, Ohio, passed away March 4, 2024, at JAG Healthcare Galion Pointe, Galion, Ohio. On February 18, 1924, Chuck was born in Columbus, Ohio, a son of the late Raymond E. and Helen (Morningstar) Lamborn. Chuck enlisted in the United States Army on Christmas day in 1942. He proudly served his country during World War II and received his honorable discharge in December 1945. He then furthered his education by receiving his Bachelor's in Agricultural Engineering from The Ohio State University in 1950. While attending a PTA meeting, Chuck met a young woman who turned out to be the love of his life, Iris Rosetta Jackson. On July 15, 1951, they were married at the Bryn Zion Baptist Church in Mount Gilead and shared over 60 wonderful years together before she preceded him in death on April 6, 2012. Chuck worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as an engineer and watershed conservationist. He retired in 1980. Chuck was a member of Christ Covenant Church in Galion. He had a heart for helping and volunteering in many organizations including: Morrow County Historical Society, Meals on Wheels, Kiwanis Club of Morrow County, Morrow County Zoning Committee and assisting as a TWIG at the Morrow County Hospital. Chuck enjoyed traveling and being outdoors camping with his wife and family. He visited numerous state and national parks, with Maine being one of his favorite places to be. He also liked muskie fishing in Michigan, watching deer in his back yard and gardening. His strawberry patch was "a thing of beauty." In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by daughter-in-law, Dessie L. Lamborn. Survivors include his five children: Charles C. Lamborn of San Jose, California, Mark J. (Kae) Lamborn of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Scott R. Lamborn of Mount Gilead, Tim A. (Beth) Lamborn of Gulf Breeze, Florida, Sara A. (Larry) Palmer of Galion; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.
Liddell	2024	Richard "Dick' Liddell (87) of Redmond, Oregon, passed away July 9, 2024. Dick was born October 31, 1936. Dick started work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as an engineering technician at the Corvallis, Oregon Field Office. After his wife Janice got her degree at Oregon State University (OSU), he started taking engineering classes at OSU eventually graduating from Portland State University. He was then given an engineering position with the SCS as the Project Engineer at the Hillsboro Area Office. He was then assigned to the Oregon State Office for a while and finally was assigned as the Area Engineer at the Bend Area Office. Dick retired early with a disability. Survivors include his wife, Janice.
Lubich	2025	Kenneth William Lubich (75) of Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at Marshfield Medical Center-Weston, in Weston, Wisconsin on March 12, 2025. Ken was born on February 4, 1950, in River Falls, Wisconsin to Hartland and Rhoda Lubich. He attended the Ames Teacher Education/Laboratory School at University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF), which allowed him to joke that he started college at age 5 and was a class of 1968 graduate of River Falls High School. In August 1969 he was drafted into the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for actions on May 12, 1970, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry in Cambodia. On this date he was subjected to intense fire from an enemy force and during the course of the action he was seriously wounded. He was also awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After his military service, he earned a bachelor's degree in soil science from UWRF and in 1974 started working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (later called the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS) in Manitowoc, Rhinelander, and Spooner and eventually rose to the rank of Wisconsin State Soil Scientist. He concluded his career in Washington, DC as Program Manager, Soil Survey Division for the NRCS and retired after 33 years as a devoted public servant. Ken married Joanne Deusterman on August 24, 1974. After his retirement, Ken and Joanne returned to Wisconsin, built a home on Two Sisters Lake and began living there year-round starting in 2015. Throughout his life, Ken was an avid hunter, skilled gardener, and enthusiastic home winemaker. He loved nothing more than spending time outdoors, especially on and around the lakes in the Madison area. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and served as Grand Knight of councils in Spooner, Verona, and Woodruff. Ken is survived by his wife Joanne Lubich, daughter Jaime (Richard) Hartman, son-in-law Patrick Neuman and Patrick's wife Stacey and children Zoey, Parker, and Mia. He was preceded in death by his daughter Lisa Neuman.
Magnuson	2023	Senior Conservationist Harold Frank Magnuson (98) of Harrisburg, Illinois, passed away December 15, 2023, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marion, Illinois. Harold was born on November 6, 1925, in Peoria, Illinois to the late John and Esther Magnuson. On March 22, 1952, he married Barbara Nelson, and she preceded him in death on June 7, 2016. He proudly served his country in the United States Army in Korea where he received a Purple Heart. Harold worked as a Conservation Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1986. He was also a cattle farmer. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars where he served for 30 years on the Honor Guard. Harold was a member of the Saline Association Retarded Citizens. He sang with The Barbershoppers for several years. In addition to his wife, Barbara, Harold was preceded in death by his daughter, Janet Magnuson. Graveside services for Harold Frank Magnuson were held at Spring Valley Cemetery. Military graveside rites were conducted by the United States Army, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sons of the American Legion.
McDaniel	2023	Jerry Carroll McDaniel (86) of Lexington, Kentucky, formerly of Bedford, Virginia, passed away October 23, 2023, at home surrounded by family. Jerry was born May 12, 1937, in Gainesville, Texas. He was a graduate of Texas A&M. He served in the United States Navy from 1961 until 1964. He was a Soil Scientist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service until he retired in 1997. Jerry worked on soil surveys in the following counties in Virginia - Campbell, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Bedford, Henry, and Franklin. Jerry was a member of Bedford Baptist Church where he served on several committees, was a deacon and a Sunday School teacher. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Carla Jo; daughter, Julie McDaniel Wu (David) of Lexington, Kentucky; two grandsons, Micah McDaniel Wu (Angie Willcutt) of Cincinnati, Ohio and Joshua David Wu of Lexington, Kentucky.
McGee	2023	Yvonne Frances McGee (99) of Salem, Oregon, passed away June 5, 2023. She was the wife of Senior Conservationist Dale A. McGee who passed away in 2008. Her husband Dale was a Resource Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Oregon. Yvonne was born March 2, 1924, into a French community in White Bluffs, Washington. Dale and Yvonne loved to boat and RV throughout their lives. She is survived by her daughter, Jan Casey Bertrand, son Dean McGee (Julie Rose), and youngest son Wayne McGee (Lisa Hedlund); grandchildren Caroline (Taylor Simmons), Cameron Casey, Miranda (Alex Porter), Heather McGee, Spencer (Sarah) and Kooper McGee; and four great grandchildren: Henry, Tatum, Brooks and Pierce.

McKee	2021	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Life Member Charles Clifton McKee (95) of West Lafayette, Indiana, passed away on November 27, 2021. Charles was born on April 18, 1926, to Wallace and Mae McKee in Telford, Tennessee. In 1943, the family relocated to a farm near Philadelphia, Tennessee, where Charles graduated from Washington College Academy. Following a stint in the United States Navy during World War II, Charles attended East Tennessee State (Johnson City, Tennessee), then transferred to the main campus of University of Tennessee (Knoxville), earning his Bachelor of Science degree in 1950. Upon graduation, Charles moved to Gibson County, Indiana to teach vocational agriculture. It was there that he met Norma Schurmeier, the older sister of one of his students. The couple moved to Princeton, Indiana and then to Petersburg, Indiana where Charles worked for the USDA- Soil Conservation Service. In 1955, the McKees relocated to West Lafayette and Purdue University. Charles was employed initially as a soil conservationist with the Cooperative Extension Service. He next served as Executive Secretary of the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee until 1987. Charles also was named chief of a newly created Division of Soil Conservation at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDR), which he held until his retirement. During Charles' tenure as Director, INDR Soil Conservation provided program assistance to Indiana's 92 county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, completed the updating of each county's soil survey, and oversaw the state-funded "T-by2000" soil conservation and water quality protection initiative, as a partner with various federal, state, and local entities. Charles had administrative responsibility for all state, regional and county employees. Charles enjoyed sporting events and traveling with Norma in their motor home. He was a long-time member of the West Lafayette First United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife and daughter, Diane. Charles is survived by one son, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and two sisters.
Nicholson	2020	Senior Conservationist Henry Lee Nicholson, Sr. (87) of Denmark, South Carolina, passed away on December 3, 2020. Henry was born in 1933 to the late James R. Nicholson, Sr., and Lena Richardson Nicholson. He graduated Oakway High School, attended Clemson University and served in the United States Army. Henry worked for West End Dairies and owned Nicholson Dairy Farm. He retired from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil conservation technician in 1998. Henry was an avid fisherman and boat navigator. He loved coon hunting, spending time outdoors, cooking cane syrup and having fish fries. Henry was a dedicated Clemson football supporter. He was an easy-going southern gentleman and never let the world get to him. As a Christian who dedicated his life to his Lord Jesus Christ, he also served as a deacon at Ghents Branch Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife of sixty years, Benny Lynn Nicholson; one daughter, Elizabeth (Fred) Tritapoe of Bamberg, South Carolina; one son, Henry Lee (LeAnn) Nicholson, Jr. of Newberry, South Carolina; five grandchildren, Allison (Josh) Carroll of Olar, Nick Tritapoe of Chapin, Rebecca Tritapoe of Bamberg, Daniel and Matthew Nicholson of Newberry; and one great-granddaughter, Breanna Carroll.
Norris	2025	Sharon Lenore Gough Norris (83) of Boise, Idaho, passed away on April 10, 2025. Sharon was born to J. Clyde and Sarah on March 20, 1942, in Wendell, Idaho. She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 40 years, retiring in 2003 as a Public Affairs Specialist. She was very creative and loved making times special for her children, granddaughter, and family. She always had a smile for everyone she met and made friends of all kinds everywhere she went. She traveled extensively for work but loved being in her own home. We will miss her smile, generosity, and love. Sharon is survived by her children, Stacie Norris, Stuart (Julie) Norris, and her only granddaughter, Shalyn, brothers Jack (Barbara) Gough, Dorothy (Jerry) Gough, Eldon Gough, Lavar Gough and numerous nieces and nephews that she loved dearly. She was preceded in death by her beloved brothers and sisters – Phyllis Robertson, Jerry Gough, Joanne Gough and Linda Gough. The family offers their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Doctor's Hospice, who provided excellent care. No memorial service will be held. Her ashes will be interred at Wendell Cemetery.
Patterson	2022	Senior Conservationist Lloyd M. Patterson (99), of Oskaloosa, Oklahoma, passed away May 2, 2022 (just a week shy of his 100th birthday) at Northern Mahaska Specialty Care in Oskaloosa. Lloyd was born May 9, 1922, in rural Maxwell, Iowa, the son of Lloyd Newman and Neva Elizabeth Weaver Patterson. Following high school, he enrolled at Iowa State College (now University) in the Forestry Program. In 1943 he enlisted in the United States Navy. In 1944, he went to Midshipman School and Officer training. Upon completing his training, he hurriedly married Patricia Pierce on May 14, 1944, before he shipped out to the Pacific Ocean to be a part of the Leyte, Luzon, and Okinawa campaigns. Upon his return stateside, Lloyd transferred his service to the United States Navy Reserves. He returned to Ames to be reunited with Patricia and finish his pursuit of a degree in forestry. As part of his education, he was able to attend Forestry Camp in Idaho. In the summer of 1946, Lloyd and Patricia were in Idaho where he staffed the fire tower in the Kaniksu National Forest. In 1948, Lloyd finished his degree in Forestry from Iowa State and the couple moved to Oskaloosa. Lloyd served as the District Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 28 years until his retirement in 1977. In retirement he worked at Jones Hardware in Oskaloosa for ten years. Lloyd gave selflessly to many organizations throughout his life. Lloyd was an active member of the Central United Methodist Church in Oskaloosa. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Admiral Nimitz Foundation, National Association of Retired Government Employees, Keo-Mah Genealogy Society, U.S. Naval Institute, Rotary, and Ruritan. Lloyd was preceded in death by his wife Patricia on July 5, 2014; a son, Andrew "Andy" Patterson; and two grandsons, Sean Patterson and Scott Patterson. Survivors include his two children and their spouses, Mary Patterson (John Greener) of Washington, Iowa, and David (Jeanne) Patterson of Dubuque, Iowa; four grandchildren, Mary "Mimi" Volkmann (Felix) Tam, Anne (Paul) Koski, Jonathan Greener, Matthew (Ashley) Volkmann; five great grandchildren, Aiden Tam, Avery Tam, Adelaide Koski, Nora Koski, and Booker Volkmann.
Phillips	2020	Senior Conservationist and Honorary Life ARCSE Member Richard "Dick" Lynn Phillips (95), formerly of Gibsonville, North Carolina, passed away on November 29, 2020, in Maplewood, Minnesota. Dick was born on June 21, 1925, in Des Moines, Iowa, son of Lynn Irwin and Ruby Cain Phillips and raised on a farm near Pleasantville, Iowa. After service in the United States Navy, he graduated from Iowa State University. Then in 1975, he earned a Master's degree from North Carolina State University. He was a dedicated soil conservationist and engineer, serving 35 years with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). After "retiring" from his first job, he worked briefly for the University of Maryland, then the Guilford County Planning Department (North Carolina), and lastly for North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in the Bioenvironmental Engineering program. He was also a registered Professional Engineer in four states. He loved the land, the farms, and farm ways. He worked diligently with SCS to develop new soil erosion control methods, and ways to mitigate agricultural pollutants. His second love was teaching, thus he always enjoyed working with students. He is survived by his wife Judy, son David and wife of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, son Timothy and his wife of Plano, Texas, and grandchildren Teresa, Lisa, Heather, Justine, and Brandon, and six great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Douglas, and sister Shirley Ann Bolie.

Post	2025	James Gary Post (90) of Moscow, Idaho, passed away on February 26, 2025. Gary was born March 18, 1934, on the family farm in Cowles, Webster County, Nebraska to James Guy Post and Marie June Post (Geiger). His family moved to Twin Falls, Idaho when he was 10. After high school he enrolled at the University of Idaho. In 1955, Gary was drafted into the Army where he served two years of active duty and four years of reserve duty. In 1959 he returned to the University of Idaho to finish his Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. He was hired by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where he began his career as a Soil Scientist at Burley, Idaho and through several promotions, become the Area Conservationist for Northern Idaho in 1974 in Moscow. Gary made many wonderful friends during his 36-year working career and many have stayed in touch to this day. Gary married in 1959 and to this union was born a daughter, Gretchen Lynn in 1961 and a son, James Gregory in 1963. This marriage ended in divorce. In 1982 he met Lynda Bley. They married at the Episcopal Church in Moscow on January 7, 1984. They enjoyed many ski weekends and trips to resorts in Western US and Canada with their best friends. Gary competed in NASTAR (amateur ski racing) and won many gold and silver metals. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lynda; his daughter Gretchen Post; grandchildren Edan, Emily and Matan Chen; and his son Greg Post.
Quisenberry	2024	Life Member Dwight Leon Quisenberry (89) of Okemos, Michigan, passed away after a short period of illness on January 12, 2024, at home. Dwight was born July 9, 1934, in Sheridan township, Mecosta County Michigan. He was the son of John Justin and Bertha Marie (Daniels) Quisenberry. Dwight graduated Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture Extension in June of 1957. He was drafted into the army in April 1958 and was honorably discharged in 1964, serving 2 years in Germany. He started working for the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service in 1960. He married Life Member Norma Jean Anderson on January 27, 1962, in Alpena, Michigan. He started working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1962 serving in Kent, Mecosta, Alpena, Lenawee, Antrim and Lapeer counties before moving into the State Office at Michigan State University, taking a position as the State Conservation Agronomist from 1974-1990, when he retired. Dwight loved taking care of his property holdings, Christmas tree farm, gardening, coin collecting, photography, hunting, fishing, antiquing, and researching family genealogy back to 1290. He helped numerous landowners manage their properties, woodlots and ponds after retirement as well as running an antiquing business with his wife. Dwight is survived by his children: David Dwight Quisenberry of Birmingham, Michigan; Luke Anderson and Laura (VanderVeen) Quisenberry of Climax, Michigan; Carrie Jean Quisenberry of Central Lake, Michigan; and Thomas James and Lasha (Heise) Quisenberry of Webberville, Michigan. He is also survived by thirteen grandchildren: Katie Quisenberry, Kyle Quisenberry, Sean (Kayla) Quisenberry, Sarah Quisenberry, Christine Quisenberry, Cassie Quisenberry, Jessica Quisenberry, Joshua Quisenberry, Aaricha (Jerry) Flowers, Ryan VandenAkker, Justin VandenAkker, Aaron Foster, Lexie Yates and one great grandchild Aria Foster. He is preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Norma Jean (Anderson) Quisenberry.
Quisenberry	2021	Life Member Norma Jean Quisenberry (81) of Okemos, Michigan, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2021, at home in the presence of her family. Norma was born in Alpena, Michigan on December 1, 1939, to the late Myrto and Olga Anderson. She married Dwight L. Quisenberry on January 27, 1962, at The Church of God in Alpena, Michigan. Norma loved being a wife, mother and grandmother. She loved spending time with her family and grandkids and said she always wanted to be an exceptional Grandma—she was. Norma also loved using her voice to sing at church and other gatherings. She started singing in church choirs in her late teens and continued the rest of her life. She was a member at Okemos First Baptist Church for over 30 years where she also served as the Choir Director for 15 years and loved to sing solos and lead others in worship. She participated in the Sunday School and AWANA ministries as well as Women's groups at the church. Norma loved to give gifts; she especially cherished the Christmas season with her family. She supported various mission organizations including the Lansing City Rescue Mission and Youth Haven Ranch as well as the Heart and Cancer Associations. She also worked as a secretary and Administrative Assistant for several organizations including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Center, the NRCS State office and the Michigan Education Association. At the time of her death, Norma was survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Dwight L. Quisenberry; children: David Dwight Quisenberry, Luke Anderson Quisenberry (Laura), Carrie Jean Quisenberry and Thomas James Quisenberry (Lasha). She is also survived by her thirteen grandchildren: Aaricha Flowers (Jerry), Ryan VandenAkker, Justin VandenAkker; Katie Bernardini (Marco), Kyle Quisenberry, Sean Quisenberry (Kayla), Sarah Quisenberry, Christine Quisenberry, Cassie Quisenberry, Jessica Quisenberry, Joshua Quisenberry, Aaron Foster and Lexi Yates; and one great- grandchild: Aria Foster.
Schmude	2023	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCS Member Keith Orville Schmude (92) of Fairfax, Virginia, passed away on March 26, 2023. Keith, the son of Harold and Lucille Schmude, was born in Omro, Wisconsin on November 26, 1930. He grew up on a dairy farm with five siblings. Keith was drafted into the U.S. Army, as an Infantry Solider, where he served on the front lines during the Korean War. After the war, he attended the University of Wisconsin, studied soil science, and met and married his loving wife of 67 years, Barbara Lou Wilson. Keith earned his PhD in Soil Science while raising seven children with Barbara during a 30-year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. His career started by working on soil surveys in Wisconsin. From there he went to the state office in West Virginia, and he finished his career in the National Office in Washington, DC. He wrote several papers on the loss of important farmlands in the United States. Keith was the faith leader in his family, a hero to his five sons, the protector of his wife and two daughters and the greatest Grandpa to fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was an active member of the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA. In addition, he enjoyed being outdoors, woodworking, and working on his laptop. Never one to pass an opportunity to tell a story, Keith befriended everyone he met and was always available to help a neighbor in need. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, daughters Nancy (Joseph) Yancey and Debra Nicholson and sons Steven (Kimberly), Mark, Brian (Alicia), Dale (Dina) and Dean (Denise).
Sheets	2025	Maryllice Sheets (87) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away March 26, 2025. She was the wife of retired USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service employee Marlin "Keith" Sheets . Maryallice was born on June 25, 1937, in Beaver City, Nebraska, the daughter of Charles and Dorothy Quig. Maryallice was a compassionate and supportive beacon of love to all who had the privilege to know her. Residing in Lincoln, Nebraska, she dedicated many years as a teacher in the Lincoln Public Schools before retiring in 1999. But her true passion was her family, whom she cherished deeply. She was an unwavering source of strength and courage, a pillar for her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a devout member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church since 1966, Maryallice found solace and joy in her faith. Maryallice is survived by her loving husband, Marlin "Keith" Sheets; her children, Jim (Brenda) Sheets, Marla (Terry) Kurtenbach, and Bill (Kim) Sheets; her 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Sherman	2023	Meredith Sherman (87) of Plymouth, New Hampshire, passed away on November 8, 2023, with her family by her side at Forestview Manor in Meredith, New Hampshire. Meredith was the wife of ARCSE Life Member Dean F. Sherman, retired Engineering Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Meredith was born April 17, 1936, in Lancaster, New Hampshire to Herbert and Christine Lewis. Meredith married Dean on June 29, 1957, and they moved to Plymouth, New Hampshire in 1964. She went to Nursing School at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Lebanon, New Hampshire. After graduating Nursing School, she worked at Weeks Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, Sceva Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth, and then at Plymouth State College Infirmary until her retirement. She was an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Meredith was a Girl Scout leader for many years in Plymouth, New Hampshire. In addition to her husband Dean, Meredith is survived by daughters Andrea Samaha (Louis) and Christine Weden (Scott) both of Plymouth; Son, Craig Sherman (Tina) of Sunapee, New Hampshire; and 9 grandchildren.
Simmons	2023	Donna Lee Simmons (89) of Fairfield, Iowa, passed away on May 20, 2023. Donna was the wife of Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Member Stanley R. Simmons , retired District Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Donna was born on May 7, 1934, in Ottumwa, Iowa to Elmer and Helen Stater Myers. She met Stanley in 1953, on a blind date. At the time she was working as a telephone switchboard operator in Fairfield, Iowa. They were married on Dec 18, 1954. Ironically, they shared the exact same birthday. Donna volunteered for over 17 years to a hospice as well as at the Jefferson County Hospital as a greeter. She was also very active with her church's women's group at Pleasant Plain Friend's Church in Pleasant Plain, Iowa, before moving into Fairfield, Iowa, where they were currently members at the Fairfield Friend's Church. Donna and Stan were married 68 years and could often be seen out together on their daily drives counting deer and enjoying nature. Donna is survived by her husband, Stanley, and their four children: Mark Simmons (Rodney Stonehouse), Phil (Jeannine) Simmons, Susan (Mark) Stanley, Bill (Michelle) Simmons. Five grandsons: Nate Stanley (partner Gui de Almeida), Josh Simmons (fiancé Audrey Wagner), Nicholas Simmons, Patrick Simmons (partner Tiffany Houk), Seth Simmons; and two great grandsons: Malachi Houk and Mason Simmons.
Slayback	2025	Norma Jean (Walters) Slayback (92) of Lodi, California, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2025, surrounded by her family. Norma was the wife of Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member Robert D. "Bob" Slayback . Born Norma Jean Roelofs on March 21, 1933, in Muskegon, Michigan, she was the daughter of Jack and Sue Roelofs. Norma's first husband, Monty Walters, passed away in 1993. She married Bob Slayback in 1996. From 2002 to 2013, Norma served as the Office Manager for Vinewood Preschool. Norma was a devoted member of Vinewood Community Church for 50 years -- teaching 1st and 2nd-grade Sunday School for 12 years and singing in the church choir. She and Bob remained active Vinewood members until recent health challenges made regular attendance all but impossible. Norma's faith, kindness, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Norma is survived by her loving husband, Bob Slayback, her brother, Ray Roelofs (Gert), her 3 children, Don Walters (Peggy), Debi Hyzdu (Bryan), and Diane Juarez (John). Norma is also survived by 3 stepchildren, David Slayback, Scott Slayback (Julie), and Dan Slayback, as well as 8 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.
Steinkamp	2024	Marjorie V. Steinkamp (89) of Quincy, Illinois, passed away March 25, 2024, in Blessing Hospital in Quincy. She was the wife of Life and Honorary ARCSE Member James F. "Jim" Steinkamp , who passed away in 2022. She was born on January 20, 1935, in Quincy, IL, the daughter of John and Marie (Winking) Kuhn. She married Jim on November 20, 1954 in St. John's Catholic Church. Margie worked as a telephone operator for Illinois Bell Telephone and General Telephone. She later worked at Blessing Hospital in the Communications Department from 1988 until her retirement in 2005. Margie was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church. She enjoyed water exercise classes at the YMCA. In her younger years, she was a lifeguard. In her early 50's Margie showed her wild side by proudly owning and riding her Yamaha 350 motorcycle. Margie enjoyed cooking, canning and sewing.
Steinkamp	2022	Life and Honorary ARCSE Member James F. "Jim" Steinkamp (94), of Quincy, Illinois, passed away on December 9, 2022, in Sunset Home in Quincy. Jim was born on June 29, 1928, in Quincy, the son of Ferd and Rosina (Genenbacher) Steinkamp. He married Marjorie Kuhn on November 20, 1954, in St. John Parish, Quincy. She survives. Jim attended Quincy College graduating in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Illinois and a master's degree in 1959. Jim served his country in the United States Army from September 1953 to September 1955. After completing his time in the Army, he was employed as a soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service from December 1955 until his retirement in September 1985. Earlier in his life he participated in several conservation organizations. Jim was a crusader for social justice, including the civil rights movement, and the protection of the rights of the unborn. Later in his life he was active in the pro-life cause and various religious organizations and was a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Human Relations Council and the Sierra Club. Jim was an active member of St. Peter Catholic Church where he was a lector and was a member of the Social Concerns Committee at the church. Jim also enjoyed swimming a few laps at the Quincy YMCA and played water volleyball on Friday mornings. Jim's pride and joy was his 70 acres of woods. Jim loved nothing more than spending the day working in his woods, manicuring the trees and undergrowth with his pruning saw and chain saw. He loved fostering growth, maturation and harvesting of his forest. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children: Michael (Madeline) Steinkamp of Los Alamos, New Mexico, Catherine (Jack) Mikelson of Chandler, Arizona and Susan Steinkamp; grandchildren: Jennifer Mikelson, Julie (Brandon) Hill and Jamie (Justin) Stein, Henry Steinkamp, William Steinkamp, George Steinkamp, Arthur Steinkamp, Charles Steinkamp, and Margaret Steinkamp; and great grandchildren: Lillian and James Hill.
Tisdale	2024	Senior Conservationist and Life Member Charles Brown Tisdale (95) of Raymond, Mississippi, passed away on April 13, 2024. Charles was born in Newton County, Mississippi to the late Jennings B. Tisdale and Anna Powell (Tisdale). Charles graduated from Mississippi State University and served his country in the United States Air Force. Charles worked as an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), retiring as the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in 1984. After retirement from SCS he worked for the Credit Union in Management for ten years. Charles was a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He served as Building Chairman when the church moved from West Jackson to Clinton. He also served as Treasurer for a period. Charles was an avid fisherman and enjoyed fishing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He liked to build, and so he built a home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast so that he could stay for the weekend to fish. Charles liked to deer hunt and watch Mississippi State Sports. He is survived by his wife, Armilda Tisdale; his daughter, Kay Armstrong, and his son, Ray Tisdale.
Uhrig	2024	Senior Conservationist Robert (Bob) Charles Uhrig (94) of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, passed away on December 8, 2024. He was born May 3, 1930, in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. A proud veteran, Bob served in the United States

		Army as a medic at Tokyo Army Hospital, Japan, during the Korean War (1951-1953). He received the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. Keenly interested in America's rural way of life, Bob had a varied career in agriculture. He studied in the farm short course at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then agricultural education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UW-River Falls). He taught agriculture at Colfax High School during the 1960s and coordinated vocational education through the Cooperative Educational Service Agency in the 1970s. Bob had periods of time selling farm equipment and providing electrical services for farmers. Bob ultimately joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service working as a Soil Conservationist across Wisconsin. He retired as a District Conservationist in 1999. Bob enjoyed singing and met his wife, Jeannine, in the Wesley Choir at UW-River Falls. He sang in a barber shop group and in church choir. Bob camped, bowled, and played golf with family and friends. While Bob was fond of model trains and collected them, he was passionate about cars and tinkered with them as a hobby throughout his life. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Jeannine. He is survived by his children: Allison, Barbara, Bradley and Steven; grandchildren: Jerad, Erin, Nickisha, Miranda, Mitchel, Zachary, and Amanda; great grandchildren: Beau, Brynnleigh, Bailey, Adam, Aaron, Deamyn, Kinsley, Ryker, and Sadie; and his sister Emily Lindner, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.
Ward	2025	Larry Ward (80) of Greenbrier, Arkansas, passed away on April 6, 2025. He was born on December 5, 1944, in Olathe, Kansas to Joe and Muriel Ward. Larry received a bachelor's and master's degree in Soil Science and worked for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He was the Co-Author of Soil Survey of Stone County and Soils of Arkansas. He finished his career as the Soil Interpretations Specialist on the Little Rock Regional Office that covered parts of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He was also an avid hunter and outdoorsman, often spending time at the Barton Hunting Club where he was a member of for over 40 years. He was preceded in death by late wife, Susan Ward, and one grandchild, Logan LaRoche. Survivors include his wife, Linda Ward; his children, Kimberly Ward Clark (Terry), Stephanie Ward Brown (Russell), Tony Kennedy, Kelli Patneaude (Jeff), Brian Drewry (Amy); grandchildren, Ashlee Houston, Colten LaRoche, Courtney Fogleman, Hunter Brown, Kelli Dempsey, Courtney Leifer, Brittany Taylor, Colton Taylor, Allison Brown, Christian Patneaude, Sierra Patneaude, Josh Clark, Lindsey Clark, Dylan Clark, Will Drewry, and Claire Drewry.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25TH, 2025.