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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 41, No. 3

May/June, 2013

The *ARCSE Newsletter* is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454

Website: [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Water Quality**—EPA released a draft of their National Rivers and Streams Assessment for 2008-2009 (<http://water.epa.gov/type/rs/monitoring/riverssurvey/>). This new assessment, which is based on statistical sampling as contrasted to earlier assessments, found that rivers and streams are under significant stress. Some numbers:

- 55 percent of the nation's river and stream miles do not support healthy populations of aquatic life, with phosphorus and nitrogen pollution and poor habitat the most widespread problem.
- 23 percent of river and stream miles are in fair condition.
- 21 percent are in good condition and support healthy biological communities

**The Budget**—The President's Budget was released on April 10<sup>th</sup> and includes a request of \$808 million for NRCS conservation operations budget—about \$20 million less than 2012 but \$41 million more than the final funding level for 2013 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>). The budget also explicitly shows that the additional technical assistance funding would come from mandatory Farm Bill programs, about \$695 million, with \$25 million to be competitively awarded to non-Federal conservation partners for providing technical assistance to producers. Overall, the reduction in technical assistance funding compared to 2012 is estimated by NACD to amount to some 230 staff years.

Both EQIP and CSP are proposed to be cut \$400 million and \$288 million, respectively, in 2014 relative to levels authorized in the Farm Bill. The annual enrollment in CSP would be permanently lowered to 10.35 million acres per year, a reduction of 2.4 million acres from the current baseline. Likewise, EQIP funding would be permanently lowered to \$1.35 billion compared to the \$1.75 billion established in the Farm Bill.

The budget also proposes about \$208 million for WRP in 2014 for monitoring, restoration, and maintenance—but authority for new enrollment expires at the end of FY 2013. Funding for watershed and flood prevention operations is proposed to be eliminated in the budget.

The budget includes several proposals that line up with the farm bills developed by the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee last year, including the consolidation of easement programs. It also proposes greater targeting of resources in EQIP to address areas of greatest conservation benefit, and would consolidate WHIP into EQIP.

While the viability of the President's budget on Capitol Hill is debatable, one additional proposal has a track record of not being taken seriously—imposing a user fee for conservation planning assistance to producers.

**Farm Bill 2013**—The House and Senate agriculture committees are planning to begin markup of a new farm bill beginning in mid-May and to be completed well before Memorial Day. However, the possibility of floor time in the House and Senate is uncertain, even though leadership in both chambers indicate that a new farm bill will be enacted this year. There is a need for a new five-year farm bill to provide greater certainty to producers, but also it is needed to reauthorize conservation programs for a longer period.

Conservation groups have been developing a document laying out principles and recommendations for strengthening the farm bill conservation title. It includes four areas:

- Maintaining robust conservation funding
- Harmonizing crop subsidies and conservation
- Improving conservation performance, results, and efficiency
- Enhancements to equity and outreach for conservation programs

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

The American Farm Bureau Federation released their priorities for the 2013 Farm Bill, including support for the consolidation of conservation programs and recommending that necessary conservation funding reductions come from land retirement programs rather than working lands conservation programs. They also oppose linking crop insurance to conservation compliance.

**A Nation-wide Sod Saver Proposal**—Senators **John Thune** (R-SD) and **Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN) introduced legislation that would restrict crop insurance premium assistance for insured crops grown on native sod converted to cropland and land that a producer cannot verify has ever been tilled. The bill would encourage conservation of grasslands that pheasants, ducks, and other wildlife use as a habitat. Several other Senators have signed on as co-sponsors of the bill.

**People**—**Kathleen Merrigan** is stepping down from her position of Deputy Secretary of USDA. Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment **Harris Sherman** also announced his departure from USDA. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a retirement celebration for **Carole Jett**. She had previously retired from NRCS early in 2008 but came back to USDA with the Obama Administration, serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Secretary **Tom Vilsack**.

**Gina McCarthy**, the nominee for Administrator of EPA, indicated at her confirmation hearing that EPA has to build bridges to the agriculture community.

**Cost of Living Adjustments**—The President's Budget includes a proposal that would have the effect of slowing any future cost of living increases for Social Security and other Federal entitlement programs. The chained consumer price index (CPI) would be used instead of the standard CPI because it fully accounts for a consumer's ability to substitute between goods in response to changes in relative prices—in other words, as costs increase, consumers shift to less costly alternatives. Congressional action is needed for this proposal to be adopted.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Mark Berkland**

Our **annual meeting** has been set for **Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** in Reno, Nevada. Our meeting will once again be held in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) annual conference. The SWCS meeting is scheduled for July 21-24 and will be held at the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino. The SWCS hotel rates are \$98.00 per night.

Our luncheon will be in the White Orchid Room at the Peppermill. We have scheduled the room on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00AM till around 2:30PM, with lunch being served at approximately 12:00 noon. There will be two meal choices with each costing \$30.00. I hope to see you at the luncheon. I want to thank **Jerry Richards** (our Regional vice President for the West) and **Chuck Houston** (our Nevada State Representative) for helping us make the luncheon arrangements.

The May-June issue of the newsletter contains the **Annual Directory** of our membership. For those of you that receive a hard copy of the newsletter, the Directory will be included as it has been in the past. A hard copy of the Directory will be mailed to members receiving the newsletter electronically. We feel that an electronic copy of the Directory could fall into the wrong hands resulting in all of us getting unwanted mailings. All non-members getting the newsletter receive it electronically. Nonmembers will not be receiving the directory.

It has been about a year since we started offering the newsletter electronically as I believe the March-April 2012 may have been the first electronic edition. Because of this, we have been able to reduce our printing and mailing costs enough to off-set the annual deficit we had been running for the past several years. In addition, we are now able to include digital color photos taken by the states. What a great way to keep up with the acquaintances we acquired over the years. That is good news! Over 64 percent of our membership gets the electronic copy—we could substantially reduce annual cost if we had even more folks. Let us know if you would be willing to receive the newsletter electronically.

One of the things that the Board of Directors is considering is setting up a system where members could pay their dues electronically. There are several systems available, and these are being discussed by the Board. Most of the systems are similar to the way many of us pay bills on-line through our banks or have re-occurring charges made to a credit card. Before we go any further with this, we would like to know if you would be interested in an alternate way of paying dues. **Please let me know your response to the following questions by June 1, 2013 (Mark Berkland, 1118 Barfield Street, Daniel Island, SC 29492 or email me at [mberkland@homessc.com](mailto:mberkland@homessc.com)):**



***If you are currently receiving a hard copy of the newsletter, would you be willing to start receiving it electronically via email? The email version costs less and includes color pictures.***



***Would you prefer an alternate way to pay dues, or would you like to continue paying dues with a check as we have been doing?***

## A BIT OF HISTORY

*Douglas Helms, Historian*

Email: [douglas\\_helms@verizon.net](mailto:douglas_helms@verizon.net)

### REVISITING THE NRCS SYMBOL

The USDA administration has announced plans that would forbid use of agency symbols in lieu of one USDA symbol. In the case of NRCS, this would be the familiar raindrop. This is not USDA's first attempt at having only one symbol. Not surprisingly, agency employees prefer their agencies' symbols, which more precisely identify their various missions.

When I was working as historian for the SCS and then NRCS, we occasionally received questions about the history of the raindrop "logo." One of the first things I learned was that we should refer to it as the "symbol," not the logo. Prior to the use of the raindrop, the SCS symbol was a pen-and-ink drawing of a correctly-contoured farm field with the farmer on a tractor at work.

Lee Shields recounted for me the transition to the raindrop. In the 1960s, the public affairs office of SCS solicited suggestions from SCS employees for a new symbol. None of these suggestions seemed an improvement on the existing symbol. At this point the public affairs office asked for some professional assistance from the USDA design department.

The April 1970 issue of the Service's official magazine, *Soil Conservation*, featured the new symbol. The quotation below is from the inside front cover.

*The symbol can be used in black-and-white or in color. Official colors are electric blue for the falling droplet, apple green for the contour band, and black for the background field.*

*The design is interpreted as meaning soil and water conservation involves controlling the force of falling rain and running water with vegetation and structures in combination.*

Some employees preferred the older, more illustrative symbol, to the newer, more abstract symbol. However, the effective simplicity of the new symbol earned it some design awards.

The symbol remained in use until 1994. The name of the Soil Conservation Service was changed to *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* on October 20, 1994 by Secretary's Memorandum 1010-1, which implemented the authorities given to the Secretary in the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law No. 103-354 of October 13, 1994. During that time as now, USDA chose to emphasize the departmental identification. Following the change in the agency's name, the symbol was not used for some time.

In 2002, NRCS reintroduced the symbol with some slight revisions. The lines of the raindrop and contour were made narrower so as not to merge when the symbol was used on a small scale. Also, the colors were changed slightly to:

*Pantone 300 (blue) Blue = Cyan 100% and magenta 43%*  
*Pantone green Green = Cyan 100% and yellow 65%*



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

And there things have stood until this evocative effort to have one symbol for USDA. The Forest Service will continue to use their symbol. Once again, many of us find a symbol more specific to our agency's mission to be useful and worth continuing.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Member	\$18 per year
Affiliate	\$18 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$250
Age 65 thru 74	\$200
Age 75 or older	\$125

**DEADLINE FOR  
 JULY/AUG 2013 NEWSLETTER  
 CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25**

## MEMBERSHIP

**Ron Marlow**

### NEW MEMBERS

O'Connor, Thomas	IA
St. Claire, Samuel	IN
Cora, Andrea	KY
Clay, David	NC
Pigg, Rick	NC
Gerken, Jon	OH
Galinat, Penny	SD
Jons, LeRoy	WY

### Complimentary membership

When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year free membership if they retired on or after January 1, 2003. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. Previous members of ARCSE are not eligible for the complimentary membership.

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [krklingel@aol.com](mailto:krklingel@aol.com)**

This has been a busy period for me (**Karl**). I just returned from 3-1/2 weeks in SE Asia. This involved a memory trip to the Philippine Islands, where I took my new bride for my first job in 1948. Since this job didn't work out, we came back and I started my career with SCS. I hadn't been back to the Philippines for 65 years and, of course, much had changed; but I did stay at the same hotel where **Georgann and I** stayed 65 years ago, and it is beautifully restored. Then I hooked up with a cruise out of Hong Kong that took me to three places in Vietnam, Bangkok, and Singapore--21,000 miles total. I got sick on an overnigher to Angkor Wat in Cambodia but recovered enough to climb to the top of the largest temple in the world. Now back to tennis, some volunteering, and a little flying.

**Warren Fitzgerald** of Sun City writes--**Rita and I** enjoyed reading the comments in the Mar/Apr newsletter. **Vern Bathurst** deserves a great big 'thank you' for the many years he guided the AZ retirees group, arranging luncheon meetings, etc., and always in good cheer. We have lived in Sun City for 25 years, and I recently reached the 90-and-over group. We take short trips each year to visit our children: Mark in Urbana, IL; Scott in Overland Park, KS; and Ann in Tucson, AZ, and other relatives in Wisconsin. They usually manage winter visits here in AZ. I started my SCS career in Wisconsin in 1949. After moves to IL, MI, NY, and NJ, I returned to IL as State Conservationist and retired in 1981.

Rita and I are enjoying fairly good health and a steady diet of weekly golf. I am struggling to golf my age or less on an executive course. We have rented a home in Prescott, AZ, for three summer months to escape some of the worst summer heat."

**Gary Nordstrom** of Prescott Valley--"Last October, **Jayne** hosted the annual get-together of several former NRCS wives in Santa Fe, NM. Those attending were **Dolores Nelson, Betty Milliken, Linda Clark, Julie Eckes, and Barbara Garrett**. While the girls were enjoying Santa Fe, **Ed Nelson, Billy Milliken, Ronnie Clark** and I disappeared for three days and played golf.

In mid-December **Jayne and I** flew to Kansas to attend the graduation of our son from the military staff college at Fort Leavenworth and also to attend his Masters degree graduation from Webster University. Our son and family came to Arizona to spend Christmas with us. Jayne and I spent New Years celebrating at a great New Years Eve party at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas and also to celebrate her birthday.

I am feeling much better now after my kidney failed last fall following an operation. After spending most of November going to dialysis treatments 3 times a week, I was able to kick start my kidney back into functioning properly and stop going to dialysis. It was a great Christmas present."

**Galen Bridge** of Tucson notes that he had dinner in Phoenix with **Judy and Neil Johnson**. The same trip included a visit with **Larry and Karen Lenz**. Larry is going through some serious health issues. He broke a hip, and in the process of repairing the hip, the medical people discovered he had bone cancer. After some heavy duty therapy, he is now walking about, but faced with several doses of radiation. They expect to return to their summer home in Yakima, WA, in June.

**Lynn Brown** and his son **Shane** came south for a visit and a few rounds of golf. Lynn stays active in his old profession by serving on the Washington State Conservation Commission. His son is a professor of engineering at Washington State University and, by the way, a very competent golfer. **Lynn and Lynda** spend their summers in Wyoming. That cattle and elk country still has real pull on Lynn. While they were here, **Ron and Barbara Moreland, Tom and Jeanie George, and Karl Klingelhofer** joined us for dinner. Karl and Lynn had a great time remembering their days together in the old Watershed Division in DC. As for Galen, he will be off to central Oregon in mid-May for the summer. Plans include a couple of trips to Maine, along with France and Turkey in the Fall.

**Chris Williams** of Chandler reports that he is changing his email address to [cpaulwilly@gmail.com](mailto:cpaulwilly@gmail.com).

**Anna Troncoso**, Executive Asst. to the St. Conservationist in AZ, reports that they do not have anything to offer for this issue.

**A. C. "Bob" Addison** of Portal reports that he is unable to travel long distances and is out of touch. Also he must be somewhat close by so he can visit his wife, **Jeanne**, weekly as she is in a nursing home. Fortunately, he has close friends nearby.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. California retirees continue to have an enjoyable luncheon for all who can make it in Davis the first Wednesday of the month. It is a great opportunity to get together, shake hands, share the latest personal information and enjoy each other's company.



The 14 shown who made it to our April lunch, from the upper left going around the table, include:

**Diane Blohm, Pat Grover, Harold Honeyfield, Bill and Dana Ward, Ron and Marilyn Hopes, Phyliss and John Rogers, Ron and Carolyn Schultz, Walt Sykes and Arturo Carvajal.**



**Ted Gerbaz, Chuck Velasquez, and Bill Ward**

### CA Retirees' Luncheon

A couple of our California Retirees recently underwent Hip Replacement Surgery: **Sally Reed**, Former Contract Specialist; and **Rome Rivera**, former Watershed Planning Staff Leader. Both are making good progress in their recovery.

In March, **Ted Gerbaz**, former State Engineer, and I made a special trip to Yuba City to have lunch with **Chuck Velasquez** who has been in an Assisted Living Home there for about a year and half now. As the State Engineer in California for many years, Ted was a close friend and mentor of Chuck's for many years while Chuck was an Area Engineer, and later when Chuck was on Ted's Engineering Staff in Davis. We had a wonderful afternoon talking about fond memories of the many Engineering Projects we worked on over our careers.

**Darwyn Briggs** and I (**Bill Ward**) had a great time fly fishing together for Steelhead on the Feather River April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was a guided float trip and we had ball, hooking about 20 fish, some really nice ones and probably getting a little less than half of those to the net! See a few pictures of that great trip. You can bet Darwyn and I will be fishing together again before too long.

Best Wishes to all from the California NRCS Retirees!



**Bill Ward's fish, one of the smaller ones landed that day**



**Darwyn Briggs' success, one of the biggest of the day**



**Bill Ward fighting a fish**



*Darwyn Briggs fighting a fish*



*Bill Ward and Darwin Briggs, tired but happy fishermen at the end of the day*

## COLORADO

**Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [giwilk@estesvalley.net](mailto:giwilk@estesvalley.net)**

A Colorado NRCS retirees' luncheon in the Denver Metro area was held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Country Buffet in Westminster, CO. The Soil Survey really outdid themselves in attendance. Better than half of the attendees were from the soils discipline. We especially enjoyed the more recent retirees attending and missed many of our other regulars who were unable to attend. Maybe next time.

Attending were: **Steve Park, Dale and Edith Holden, Tom Hahn, Dennis Alexander, Lewis Daniels, Ed Olmsted, Alan and Kari Price, Jerry and Sandy Schwien, Mike Gillespie, Linda Neel, Testher Bright, Dan Parker, Jim Borchert, Caarol Wettstein, and Laura and John Vescio.**

We are trying to arrange a retirees' day to see a Colorado Rockies game sometime this summer. If it ever quits snowing, **Jerry Schwien and Ed Olmsted** are going to try to get us tickets.

More than three feet of snow fell in Estes Park the last two weeks of April and probably much more than that at higher elevations. This should alleviate some of the concern in regards to the below-normal snow pack expressed earlier this season.

*Editor's Note: Regarding the adjacent poem, Ivan Wilkinson said that Mr. Smith farmed about 160 acres of native grass and cropland in Cowley County, SE Kansas.*

**Another poem by Ginger Wilkinson's Grandfather, written in the late 1930s:**

**TO ANY PUBLISHER**

*While this is written just for fun  
it's in the nature of a dun.*

*The government most always pays  
for all the wheat I do not raise.*

*And while it says I can or can't  
it pays for cotton I don't plant.*

*And so I thought perhaps, that you  
would pay for things I do not do.*

*Indeed I feel quite sure you may  
pay for stuff I do not say.*

*This is a sample of that stuff  
My don't you think I'm fair enough?*

—Bernard Marshall Smith  
Sept. 1938

## GEORGIA

**George C. Norris, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [pikefarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:pikefarm@bellsouth.net)**

Retired SCS and NRCS employees and spouses in the Athens, GA, area were together for their quarterly luncheon at Ryan's Steak House on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Attending were **Vivian Patten, Bill White, Bill and Rue Player, Edward Ealy, Gerald and Evelyn Sadler, Cecil and Gene Martin, Simeon and Betty Bell, Carolyn Adams, Bob and Frances Wilkes, Edna Firor, Jim and Judy Helm and George and Ellen Norris.** The group will meet next time for lunch on July 25, 2013 and invite you to join us.

**Cecil and Gene Martin** shared the news of the birth of their newest granddaughter and 20<sup>th</sup> grandchild. The newest granddaughter joins its eleven siblings, children of the Martin's daughter, **Joy** and her husband, **Donald Bloom.**

Congratulations to the Martins and the Blooms. **Cecil** retired from SCS in 1987 as Georgia's Assistant State Conservation Engineer.

## IDAHO

**Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [SNorris0889@hotmail.com](mailto:SNorris0889@hotmail.com)**

We are so proud of **George James** who was featured in a recent news story on KTVB Television, Boise, for being the American Red Cross' top donor in Idaho. So far he has made 500 donations, giving platelet blood every two weeks during a span of over 50 years. The platelets are used to treat leukemia and in heart bypass and other surgeries. George, who is 84 years young, says he has no plans to stop donating. "I just want to do what's right and have fun," he says. "I'll keep doing it 'till they kick me out."

We couldn't have had a more wintery day for our first luncheon of 2013 on Jan. 24. The worst ice storm in 30 years hit the Boise area early in the morning, coating cars, homes, sidewalks and closing an 83-mile stretch of Interstate 84. But that didn't stop a few of us from attending, including **Wayne Faude, Frank Fink, John Kendrick, Kent Foster, George James, Paul Calverley, Don and Maxine Stewart, Darrell and Gladene Gallup**, and me (**Sharon Norris**).

The weather was much better for our Feb. 28 luncheon, attended by **Dennis and Mary Froeming, George James, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Kent Foster, Jim Cornwell, Darrell Gallup, Stan and Kathy Hobson, Wayne Faude, John Kendrick**, and me (**Sharon Norris**). News briefs: The Froemings went to the Big Island in Hawaii, the Cornwells did 18 days in Peru, and Kent had a near-death experience on the freeway (he received no injuries!).

During our March 28 luncheon, we were delighted to see and visit with our former coworker **Ralph Swift** who is now an Idaho resident. Others attending were **Kent Foster, Paul Malone, Jim Cornwell, Darrell and Gladene Gallup, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Joe Icenhower, George James, Dennis and Mary Froeming** and me (**Sharon Norris**).

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [daleab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daleab@sbcglobal.net)**

Retirees met in Champaign on April 4<sup>th</sup> for lunch and visiting. Attending were **Elsie Campbell, Dick Dickerson, Wiley Scott, Lee and Nancy Bridgman, Ray Coombes, Jim and Bonnie McQuilken, Dennis and Susan Beyer, and Dale and Nancy Benz**.

**Dick Dickerson** told about his trip to England last October to visit their son. Dick and Jan spent three weeks in London, Scotland, and Italy. They were in Florida during February of this year. Welcome back home, Dick!

**Ray Coombes** described his knee surgery that he had at the end of February. Three small holes in his knee gave all the access the doctors needed to grind, clean, and fix his knee.

**Lee Bridgman** told a true story of pulling his RV down the road when a car passed him and got him to pull over. It seems Lee had a flat tire on his trailer that he wasn't aware of. The car happened to be **Jim Evans'**. Lee, you have to know what is happening behind you as well as in front! **Lee and Nancy** spent the winter in southern Texas this past winter and said the wind blew strong all winter. They have two grandsons getting married this year, one in May and the other in December in Alaska. Lee told us the Illinois Walnut Council is having a field day on his farm in Pike County in September. Once Lee got rid of the Autumn Olive, the walnut trees started to grow. The things we learned as a DC, Lee!

**Jerry and Jean Leonard** are taking a tour to Ireland in August. Jerry's cancer in his throat is believed to be healed. Happy to hear that good news.

**Jim McQuilken** told us of a gathering of AGR members in Macomb in March. Thirty-two of 58 members from his days at Western Illinois University attended.

We are sorry to report that **Pat Moran** passed away on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Pat was the Secretary for the State Conservationist when she retired. We offer our sympathy to Pat's family.

The next gathering of retirees in Champaign will be October 3, 2013, so mark your calendars.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [rlull2@cox.net](mailto:rlull2@cox.net)**

My goodness, someone needs to whisper in Mother Nature's ear that it's spring. During the second week of April many parts of Kansas experienced the strange phenomenon of having a spring storm with thunder, lightning, and hail,

while at the same time having a winter storm with sleet and snow. One morning Salina awoke to everything covered with a thin coating of ice glistening brightly in the sun. Words can't express the most beautiful sight of the trees and shrubs. It was interesting to learn that 75 years ago in the same week of April, Salina had its worst April blizzard in 20 years.

Talking about coincidences, never forget your co-workers as you never know when they might pop up. This spring on three consecutive days, I came in contact with three voices from the past. **Donelda (Brown) Summers**, who worked in the Kansas State Office in the late 60s and early 70s, has moved back to Salina and dropped into the monthly retired ladies luncheon. The next day I received an e-mail that started "You may not remember me but ..." It was from **Richard "Gene" Highfill** (now living in Florida) who worked in Kansas on the Watershed Planning Staff in the early 60s. The very next day I received a letter from **Marilyn McMulkin** who worked in the State Office before becoming the area clerk for Area 1 in 1974. It was certainly exciting to hear from old friends.

I recently received an e-mail from **Robert B. (Bob) Crawford** stating that he had moved to Kansas four years ago to be near his daughter in Burns, Kansas. He retired in 1994 in Phoenix, Arizona, after working in Texas, New York, Vermont, and Arizona. On March 1, he celebrated his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday by downhill snow skiing for the 45<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. He skied for five days at Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico.

**David and Barbara Hays** of Salina celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in March. They have two children, Michael and Michele, two granddaughters, three step grandchildren, and one step greatgrandson. **David** retired in 1994 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Salina Field Office. They are enjoying gardening, fishing, and arrowhead hunting.

Congratulations are sent to **Jean Hamilton** (widow of **Vernon Hamilton**). She spent 13 years collecting quilt blocks depicting scenes from the 1939 film classic, "The Wizard of Oz," one of her favorite movies. Then for the next three years she stitched the blocks together to make her 131<sup>st</sup> full-sized quilt. Usually she gives her quilts away, but she decided to keep this one and entered it in the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual "Art is Ageless" exhibit, an art competition for senior citizens sponsored by the Salina Presbyterian Manor. Eighty-four senior citizens entered the local contest. As it turned out, Jean won the third place award for her "Oz" quilt in the amateur quilting machine-stitched category; however, she cleaned up with her other entry, a hand-stitched quilt called "Dear Jane." This quilt not only won first place in the quilting/hand-stitched category, but it also won overall Best of Show. Her work will be in competition with winners from 17 other Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America.

Our sympathy is sent to the **Virgil D. Beougher** family. Virgil passed away in his sleep on March 4, 2013. Virgil retired in 1969 as the District Conservationist at the Ellsworth Field Office. His son, **Darrel**, is presently the District Conservationist at the Dighton Field Office.

The Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association will be holding its annual meeting in Salina, Kansas, on June 28, 2013. They will meet at Martinelli's Little Italy to enjoy visiting, an Italian meal, and a program.

## KENTUCKY

Report submitted by **Connie McKinney and Billye Haslett**, [Mckinney7395@aol.com](mailto:Mckinney7395@aol.com), [bchaslett@aol.com](mailto:bchaslett@aol.com).



KY SCS/NRCS Retiree Breakfast Social  
at Winchell's in Lexington, KY  
March 15, 2013

**Greg Johnson**, retired Division Chief, NHQ, was elected to the Fayette County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Greg also stays busy as an auctioneer.

**Rodney Hendrickson**, retired RC&D Coordinator, accepted a job as the Director of Tourism in London, KY. Rodney is enjoying attracting events to London and travels to various areas of the country to do so.

**Daisy Smith**, retired Area Clerk, is 91 and still lives in her home in Bowling Green, KY. She says it's best to stay in your home as long as you can.

Retirees in the picture are: front- **Roy Tony**, President; left to right- **Greg Johnson, Rodney Hendrickson, Tom Marcum, Glenn Kelley, Connie McKinney, Linda Derossitt, Dick Quiggins, Greg Stephens, Linda Fryman and Billye Haslett.**

**KY SCS/NRCS retirees who attended a March 15, 2013 breakfast social held at Winchell's Restaurant in Lexington, KY**



**MAINE****John Simon, ARCSE Representative****Email: [balnengr@tds.net](mailto:balnengr@tds.net)****JANUARY:** The January, 2013 breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Charlie Boothby, Ray Voyer, Tom Smith, and John Simon.**

**Tom Smith** drove up from Portland (over 90 miles) to come and have breakfast with us. We certainly welcomed Tom aboard. Tom surprises us at least once a year by driving up. Last year he brought his wife **Connie** along. Tom has several local grandkids that keep him busy. Tom and I worked for many years together out of the Lewiston Field Office. I certainly have many fond memories of field visits to Tom's problem sites at farms. Tom had a real ability to dialogue with farmers and understand their problems from their perspective. We normally see Tom and wife **Connie** at the summer luncheon at Cole Farms in Gray, Maine, in July (second Wednesday at noon).

**Ray Voyer** of the state office attended in January. Most of us had not seen Ray for some 15 years or so. Ray was the GIS specialist in Orono for years. I first met Ray when he came to Maine to take **Earland Morrison's** place at the Alfred Field Office in York county in the mid-1980s. I was the engineering specialist for southern Maine at the time. Ray transferred up to Maine from his DC job in Gettysburg, PA. Ray told stories of how his technician was great at dowsing for seeps in advance of installing tile. Tile was popular for draining wet spots in fields so as to make the fields better available for spreading manure and other amendments. When I was an Area Engineer out of Bloomsburg, PA, a DC out of Stroudsburg, PA (I think his name was **George Collier**, the clock collector), had a crew that used to install diversions. These diversions sat on the hard pan and really helped dry up seeps so that early access to land for manure spreading was possible. We had some interesting discussions during spot-check time.

**Ray Voyer** had his Maine field office in Alfred computerized long before the State Office. I am sure they noticed his skill set and brought him up to Orono for GIS support. Ray had a kidney transplant last year from his younger brother. Perfect match. They are both doing great. Truly an act of brotherly love.

Ray Voyer was a DC in Gettysburg, PA, when **Jim Olson** was the Area Conservation in Lebanon, PA. Jim came to SCS from OIG, I believe. Jim went to the National Office to work as the Liaison to the legislature. That was at the same time as **Charlie Boothby** was working for NACD in Washington, DC, as a liaison officer. Charlie knew Jim well. Jim eventually became state conservationist in Harrisburg, PA, after I left Harrisburg in 1980.

**Charlie Boothby and Judy** eventually retired in Bangor, Maine, and they are now regulars at our breakfasts. Charlie worked as an inspector in Maine for Maine Organic Farmers Association but has since stopped. He loved the field work, but has retired from that work. He is now active in Bangor developing groups of raised beds for the elderly and handicapped to raise their own vegetables. The raised beds are 4-ft square and high enough to be manageable from a wheel chair or with minimal back bending. They find it hard keeping up with the demand. The hardest problem to solve is finding locations where water is available.

**FEBRUARY:** On February 12<sup>th</sup> we gathered to have our Tuesday breakfast and had six retirees in attendance: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Ray Voyer, and John Simon.** On February 9<sup>th</sup> the area had received a blizzard. Thank goodness we only got 18 inches in Bangor. The southern part of the state got up to 40 inches of snow.

I was in contact with **John and Lola Ferwerda**, who are good friends with **Ken LaFlamme**. Ken worked out of the state office as the soils correlator for quite a few years. They informed me that Ken is out of rehab and is at home now but needs home care from visiting nurses. Ken will turn 79 in August of 2013. John and Lola indicated that Ken would welcome calls from those who know him. His number is 207-827-7467. His address is 113 Highland Ave, Old Town, Maine 04468. Ken does not have a web connection, so email is not possible. Ken and Corda have several children locally to watch over them.

John Ferwerda is a soil science historian of sorts. He has a wealth of information on mapping. According to John, the National Soil Survey started in 1896 and was under the National Weather Service until the work was transferred to the SCS in 1950, well after the Dust Bowl.

**Bruce Champeon** was kind enough to inform me of a show on PBS called "Earth from Space." I have watched it already, and it is great. You can find out when the next showing will be at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/airdates.html>. You will not regret watching it--believe me.

**Bill Moulton** informed me recently that he was spending some time in his ice house out on the Kennebec. Ice fishing is off and on. Bill seems to think that the removal of the dam on the Kennebec in Augusta has increased fish runs up the river. The changes may be good or bad--we will have to wait and see. This winter Bill has been cutting lumber off his woodlots with his son **Peter** on Peter's days off. Bill indicated that his birthday is on December 25, 1942. Gee, having to share a birthday with Santa sounds like a bummer.

For those interested in sound information on global warming, I recommend reading two really great books: *Unstoppable Global Warming every 1500 Years* by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery; and *Fire, Ice, and Paradise* by H. Leighton Steward.

**MARCH:** On March 12<sup>th</sup> we had our regular breakfast with four in attendance: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. We had a snow storm last Tuesday that dropped about 10 inches in the Bangor, Maine area-- that was a bummer. The SWCD board recently had some discussion about the video "Cover Crop Farmer" that was produced by the NRCS national office staff. Go on-line and you can watch it. It is fabulous! The Penobscot County SWCD showed the video at our annual banquet, and it was well received. It is a major paradigm shift for anyone moving in that direction. It has the potential to transform agriculture as we know it. It reminded me of the book in the 1980s by Ruth Stout call "How to Have a Garden without an Aching Back." They called her "the mulch lady." Her method is a similar concept but for small gardens.

**APRIL:** On April 9<sup>th</sup> we had our usual breakfast at Dysarts with four in attendance: **Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. Not much news, but a discussion was held on Obama health care. Be careful what you read. One can get the total wording of the bill from the Government printing office if you want. I read some of it but decided not to download the 906 pages, as it is always available online. Bruce Champeon informed the group that he will be turning 69 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, but he declined having us sing happy birthday. Next year we will be ready.

'Till next time, have a great summer!

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative**

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The big news from Massachusetts is, of course, the Boston Marathon bombing and aftermath. It seems like everyone knows someone who was somehow affected by the events. The NRCS GIS Specialist, **Aaron Dushku**, lives in Watertown, MA (the town where the younger brother was captured). The whole town was under a "Shelter-in-place" lockdown, and **Aaron** reports getting little sleep due to the gun battle and overwhelming police activity in town.

On March 14, **Carl Gustafson** (retired SCE) organized a Pi Day breakfast for retired engineering staff (*Editor's Note: The number pi is a mathematical constant that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, and is approximately equal to 3.14159*). The event was convened at 7:30AM, and **Dennis Verdi** (Civil Engineer) sent his regrets due to the early hour. Evidently some retirees like to sleep-in. I attended the breakfast along with **Carl, Dave Nelson** (ASCE) and **Frank Wilda** (Contract Specialist and Draftsman). **Cecil Currin** (STC, SCE) also sent regrets as he was in charge of the butternut squash peeling operation in the boss' absence. **Cecil** did remind us that "Pi are not square; Pi are round, and cornbread are square."

In mid-April **Nancy Sheard** (CET), **Pat Cecil** (SAO), and **Karen Regish** joined a small group of women on a week-long trip to Sicily. After enduring the 8-hour flight to Rome and another flight to Sicily, they had a great time over-eating, shopping, and enjoying themselves. Someone reported that wine at every meal soon became more than enough, but they never could get enough of the gelato.

So, that's about it. Daffodils are blooming, forsythia are in bloom, and trees are thinking about leafing out. I just came to the realization that the trees have six months with leaves and six months without leaves. In about three more weeks the Spring semester at UMass will be over, and Amherst will enter its three month dormancy.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**

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Minnesota retirees met for lunch on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Pippins in Roseville: **Dave and Kay Breitbach, Cathy and Don McCormack, Vic Ruhland, Ron and Sylvia Olson, John Handler, Bud Finney, Al Giencke, Marlene Mechelke, and Laurel Lappegaard**.

Weather has been so depressing in Minnesota that most folks don't feel like writing about their retirement experiences. Shoveling deep, wet snow in the middle of April is not a desirable situation. Our only contributor this month is John Handler.

From **John Handler**: So, what did I accomplish in my third year (2012) of retirement? "Building stuff" seemed to be this year's theme, physical stuff as well as electronic stuff. Sprinkle in a few mini-vacations, and there you have my year's accomplishments.

Building physical stuff was mostly through Habitat for Humanity projects. There is a tremendous need for home improvement projects, so we spent many days last summer replacing siding, windows, decks, retaining walls and

insulation, as well as caulking and weatherproofing. Providing handicap access was also on the list of things to build. Homeowners who are less financially fortunate than us apply to the Habitat for Humanity "A Brush with Kindness" program, and if accepted, are expected to provide sweat-equity along with the volunteers (homemade cookies counted as "sweat equity," at least for our crew).

Electronic building involved computer databases. Goodhue County Historical Society has innumerable paper format resources, but unfortunately many have no index or other easy method for researchers to find the information for which they are looking. Many researchers are historians and genealogists searching for people, towns, locations, businesses, etc. So, using my database skills as a former Soil Scientist, I am creating electronic databases that serve as indexes which provide a quick initial search for those researchers, guiding them to the resources containing their information. The electronic databases reduce their initial search time by a factor of fifty or more. Indexing the Goodhue County Jail Register from the first arrest in 1859 through 1963 turned up some interesting characters, especially during the Prohibition Era.

I also assisted the nationwide effort to index the 1940 Federal Census. The individual data sheets were released by the government to the public after 72 years; but, again, without an index of some sort, these were almost impossible for researchers to use. So, Family Search (a genealogy organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) stepped in big time, scanning all of the census sheets (over 3 million of them), and then providing free software to thousands of volunteer indexers to assist in the indexing effort. 99% of the census sheets were indexed in eight months (and are available for free). Check out the project at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FamilySearch\\_Indexing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FamilySearch_Indexing).

One of my home building projects was a fence. My wife, **Priscilla**, and I discovered that our live-in carnivore (a Cocker spaniel) loves vegetables. We couldn't figure out why the yields from her rather large vegetable and berry garden were so poor in 2011 (in spite of ideal growing conditions that summer), until we caught the carnivore late one night dining in the garden, which she had apparently been doing most of the summer. So, the garden for 2012 had a dog-proof fence built around it. I hadn't built a wire fence since my days with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the late 1960s, but those skills returned quickly—and successfully, judging that the fence weathered all sorts of storms last summer, needing no repair. By the end of the summer, I'll admit that I was getting tired of fresh vegetables and berries, so the carnivore did get a few of the leftovers.

Too much and too little precipitation in 2012! In June, we had downpours and severe flooding (much damage to the roads in our town), but in spite of those storms, the crops were doing exceptionally well, with field corn reaching heights of 10 feet in places, and bountiful yields in much of southeast Minnesota. So, when my brother asked me to bring the sweet corn to our campsite in southwest Wisconsin, I figured that I would purchase some very fresh corn at a farm stand near the campsite. Bad decision, though: I didn't realize that southwest Wisconsin was in a severe drought, and the only sweet corn to be found was at one farm stand—and those were short, nearly immature ears for ten dollars a dozen! And as I got closer to the state park at which we camped, the crops got worse and worse: corn withered, soybeans dead, hayfields browned out. However, one lush green field caught my eye—tobacco (with no apparent irrigation that I could see)!

Another mini-vacation was to the Black Hills in South Dakota. A Lewis and Clark event in Fort Pierre commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Sacagawea (assuming she died in South Dakota, not Wyoming), a visit to fellow retiree **Lynn DesLauriers and his wife, Carol**, and visits to National Parks and Monuments made for a quick but very enjoyable eight days.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer**, ARCSE Representative

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**Jay Lingwall:** Hello everyone. **Leigh** and I have been overwintering in Southwest Florida since December 30<sup>th</sup>. In between boating and fishing, we repainted the inside of the house and also painted the outside. The house looks like old Florida now. We had a lot of company in March. March was a little bit chilly down here. It only averaged 76 degrees, and we did have to turn the heater on a few times at night. I got a heavy dose of winter when I helped my daughter move from Columbia to Omaha, Nebraska. Leigh stays very busy with the Praise Band at our church, and I volunteer every Wednesday to do work with the church missions' team. We continue to do little 5K road races--three in three months, and Leigh either wins or always places in her age group, and I am right there behind her. We each set PRs every race however there are a lot of old dudes in South Florida that can run 5Ks very fast. We are planning to head back to Missouri around the second week of May and are looking forward to a long trip to Idaho in July.

**Dennis Shirk:** Well hopefully spring is here. We are well. Nothing has changed since the last newsletter. Have a great and wonderful retirement.

**Ed Smith:** We're home. We spent Dec through March in FL and had a great winter down there. Played some golf, lots of shuffle board and ate WAY too much, am going to have to pay for that for quite a while. Got my flower beds cleaned and the leaves from under the shrubs. I've got some touch up painting outside to do and we plan to redo the flooring in

a majority of the house or until the money runs out! Don't have anything special planned for the summer except spoil our great-grandson every chance we get. Hope to see many of my retiree friends soon at one of our breakfast get-togethers.

**Jim Sturm:** Well, it has been quite some time since anyone has heard hide or hair of what a fellow retiree named Jim Sturm (alias **Jimbo**) has been doing. He has been involved in all kinds of outside home improvements. Back in 2011, he put a metal roof on a 16ft x 24ft deck. Then designed and completed a new spindle/railing on three sides of the above deck plus another 20 feet of the front porch. In 2012, a new toy showed up and so now there is a 10ft x 14ft golf cart shed attached to the truck garage. Next, some gravel was added to provide for larger vehicle/toy parking area. And the list goes on and on. Maybe he needs to start a Facebook page for the "rest of the story." He hopes to wet a fishing line sometime late June or early July to latch onto something in the 24+ pound range that almost made off the whole fishing pole one morning at 5:30AM a number of years ago. Then, there's the scheduled trips covering May, June, and August for starters. And, just last week, he was talking to the "Walking Trail and Memorial Garden" planning committee chairman at the Wright Memorial Hospital in Trenton, MO, about the use of windbreaks and prairie grass/forb plantings along the trail. So, by the time Jimbo left the hospital, the planning committee chairman and a MDC Private Land Specialist were setting up a meeting appointment. So, it appears that the Jimbo is keeping quite busy at something all the time.

**Jess Eppe** (from OK): The news is good from JP Ranch here in Indian Country, USA (aka Muskogee, OK). Our calving season started in February and will be ending in April. So far our calves are doing well and, as usual, their Moms are "fussing" over them. **Phyllis** and I finished our EQIP contract in 2012. Our last two projects were completing two more (very large) tire tanks. We now have six cattle watering tanks plus several ponds. Our great grand-daughter in Columbia, MO (**Holland Hope Hughes**), is growing like a weed! When she is at the Ranch she enjoys almost everything, especially our calves romping and playing. She has the attributes to make a fine cow-girl. We recently received good news relating to our Civil War Battlefield site "Honey Springs Depot" (which is located several miles west of our land). It now has national significance. It has been designated a National Historic Landmark. This was the largest Civil War battle fought in Indian Territory (July 17, 1863) and the first significant battle fought using a large number of the First Kansas Colored. Remember the movie "Glory" based on Fort Wagoner, SC? It was a fantastic movie, but it was fought the day after Honey Springs was fought! My Father, Oklahoma Historian, wrote his first book in 1964 about this battle. It was most unique because most fighting was done by Indians and on the Union Side, African Americans and Indians, with a few European Americans. It is said that all five of the civilized tribes were represented in this battle, with brothers killing brothers. We hope that this Civil War site will soon be managed as a National Park Service site. At present, it is under the Oklahoma Historical Society. If you are in this part of Indian Country, please make a point to tour the Honey Springs Battlefield site. Be well, exercise if you can, keep smiling, and BEEF is a really a good source of protein for most retirees!

**Keith Davis:** I am way past cabin fever. I am ready for spring. My firewood came out about right, and I did my yearly reorganization of my fishing stuff, so I will be ready when the weather permits. My wife and I have spent several weekends in Springfield caring for and enjoying our newest grandson, **Adlai**, whom **Dan and Keela** adopted from the Congo. Their pending adoption of a baby girl seems to be progressing very slowly. African time seems to be measured differently. I installed a drip irrigation system to hopefully help produce more tomatoes this year, and am beginning to work once again on my shop. I also have mushroom spawn ordered for a new batch in our backyard. I recently sprayed our food plots at the farm and cut up a large oak that nearly fell on top of my sawmill, in a last act of defiance of sorts. Take care, all.

**Bill and Ruby Riggs** are excited about the birth of their second granddaughter, **Raena Grace Lee-Warner**. She was born to **Rachelle and Jon Lee-Warner** on Wednesday, March 27, in Malibu, CA. **Bill and Ruby** just returned from a visit to make her acquaintance. In early March, **Bill and Ruby** took a bus tour to the Southwest covering the 8 states of Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Kansas. Highlights included the Oklahoma Memorial in Oklahoma City, Old Town Plaza in Albuquerque, the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Royals spring training baseball game in Surprise Arizona, Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon in Nevada, and Glenwood Canyon in Colorado. The weather varied from snow in Flagstaff to 80 degrees in Phoenix and Las Vegas.

**Bob and Lenore Ball:** Bob has been pruning black walnut trees and planting several hardwood trees and shrubs at their Spring Hill Woodlands farm in Southeast Ohio. He also assisted the local SWCD in hosting a grazing workshop on their pastureland. We will be attending the wedding of our daughter, **Laura**, to **Chris Hartmann**, in Orlando, FL, Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. There have been several trips to Florida to finalize arrangements...and to sample the beverages that will be served at the reception! On one trip we visited with **Don and Penny Butz** who live in a retirement community in Tampa. **Don** retired from NRCS as the CRP Program Manager after working in Ohio and Florida. We also enjoyed watching a spring baseball game between the Cardinals and Houston Astros at Astro Park in Kissimmee.

**Mike Blaine:** I am waiting impatiently for the weather to warm up enough to bring up the mushrooms. So far, the only thing showing life in my woods is the lichen on the rocks. I continue to cut cedars and do maintenance on the farm. That's about all the excitement there is in my life right now!

**Peggy Fricke:** Besides being snowed in off and on for about two weeks, I did get to attend the Women-In-Ag Conference at Marshall, MO, in March...quite a crowd there! Got to see a lot of old friends/former co-workers and other familiar faces--this was absolutely awesome. Spent five days at Brushy Creek Ranch trail-riding, picture-taking, resting and relaxing with friends. So looking forward to the nicer weather and going some more!

It is with great sadness to inform you that **Camille Kurtz** passed away April 13<sup>th</sup>. **Camille** is the mother of **Jamie Kurtz**, Resource Conservationist at West Plains Field Office, and wife of **Ian Kurtz**, retired Grassland Conservationist at Ozark Field Office.

**Rob Cheshier** has reported that **Bob McQuilkin** has passed away. Bob was a forester with the US Forest Service working out of the Columbia state office who retired about 15 years ago.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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### Montana Big Sky Report

**Gordon Decker Report:** Not much going on the past couple months. I missed both the March and April breakfasts because of being out of town or with a bad cold. The big event was the State Class A Basketball Tournament in Billings. Our Grandson, **Zach**, a junior at Stevensville High School, and his team won the State Championship, the first in Stevensville's history, so it was very exciting.

**Scott Hoag Report:** Not much has changed since the last newsletter. We're still in Bozeman and it's still snowing. We're moving forward with our house-building process, including design and the city permit process. Nancy continues to write and Scott continues working with Habitat for Humanity (HfH). We have two groups of RV Care-a-Vanners (this is the organization we worked with the last four years across the U.S.) coming in for four weeks in May and June to help finish the current HfH house in Belgrade. Scott and Nancy are helping with coordination.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** On April 17, 2013, it was 10 degrees above zero, and our livestock waterers froze. The cows were not happy. About a month ago the temperature was up to 50-60 degrees, and being careful about our expenditures, I had **Mary Ann** remove the water heaters to save electricity costs. Who would have ever thought that on April 17<sup>th</sup> it would get that cold.

Mary Ann had to haul water out to water the cattle. Then she had to haul hot water out to try to get the waters thawed. After 10 five-gallon buckets of hot water she finally got the water thawed. In the meantime the cows were trying to drink the hot water faster than Mary Ann could pour it on the frozen water pipes. Mary Ann wanted me to keep the cows back but I had a conference call coming up in a couple hours I had to get ready for so I couldn't help her.

In order to not calve in cold harsh weather, we quit calving in February and started this year calving in April so we would have nice weather for the new calves. What a joke. On April 16 the temperature dropped down to 10 degrees above zero and 50 mph winds. That is not nice weather. The shed we used to put calves in to get them out of the weather blew over and was destroyed. Consequently, Mary Ann has to bring every calf to the house and put it behind the stove to warm up and dry out. That means she has to milk the cow so the calves could get the colostrum. She has to milk the cows twice a day. Currently we have 15 calves running around in the house waiting for the weather to get decent. It's too bad they don't come potty trained. It's one thing to have your dog sleep on your bed but two calves as well. I think that's a little much.

I can't believe it. Today is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, and we still have to have the calves in the house. I'm beginning to think Mary Ann likes all the company. One advantage of having the calves in the house is that I am able to help Mary Ann weigh the calves and tag them without having to go outside in the bad weather. Mary Ann is putting all the extra milk in the freezer. When everything settles down she is going to make cheese. Colostrum gives the cheese a real good taste and all the nutrients in the cheese make it really healthy.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman and Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives**

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President, **Gary Muckel**, called the March meeting to order with 20 people attending. The group welcomed **Roger Hammer**, former Soil Scientist, who recently moved to Lincoln and attended the March breakfast. There will be a dedication of a marker for the Holdrege Soil at the Nebraska Prairie Museum north of Holdrege on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Travel Reports:** **Henry and Ethel Mount** have returned from their trip to the Galapagos Islands. It was a great trip and Henry showed some pictures of the wildlife encountered there. The **Paul Bartletts** went on a bus tour to New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. Unfortunately, many people (including Paul) became ill on the trip, and Paul said he

didn't actually see a lot of the sights planned while they were there. **Gus and Donna Dornbusch** spent time in Illinois to celebrate their granddaughter's first birthday and her dad's 50<sup>th</sup>. **Sylvia and Norm's** daughter and three grandchildren visited from Nairobi, Kenya, during one of our recent snow storms--it was the two youngest grandchildren's first introduction to snow. Norm says they spent a lot of time throwing snowballs and making snow angels!

**Health Notice:** **Sylvia Kempf** is recovering well from surgery to remove rods and screws from her back. Screws had migrated up and were pressing on her nerves causing unbearable pain. This has now been alleviated.

**Spring Banquet:** The annual SCS/NRCS spring banquet at the Cotner Center in Lincoln was attended by 40 retirees and guests. **Craig Derickson**, Nebraska State Conservationist, gave an overview of what is happening in NRCS these days and what is likely to happen due to sequestration. **Paul Smith** honored those who have died since our last banquet.

**SCS retirees remembered:** **June Johnson, Bert Bouquet, Mearidine Butler, Charles W. Peterson, Arlo Hackbart, Mary Lou Owen (Husband Bill), Don Hoppes, Mary Francis Clark (husband Bill), Robert (Bob) Hayes, Axel Bolesen**

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**  
 Email: [mlee0006@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mlee0006@rochester.rr.com)

**Jim Calhoun** writes: After spending New Year's Eve through most of March in a condo in St. Augustine, FL, **Beth and I** returned to Clifton Park on March 30<sup>th</sup> in order to have Easter dinner with her family in NY. **Jim** had flown back from Florida in mid-February for a two-week period for business and doctor appointments and to take care of **Beth's** daughter and son-in-law's dog while they flew to Florida to see Beth. This also gave **Jim** time to work on his model railroad layout. While in Florida he bicycled on the beach, swam an hour or so a day in the swimming pool, went out to lunch with friends and visited some historic sites and train shows. **Jim** has also signed up to take education courses in conjunction with Empire State College on Iroquois Culture and Civil War speakers. **Jim** attends the weekly meeting of the Empire and Eastern O Gauge Train Club, where they share ideas and visit each other's layouts. As with any retiree, he also has a number of projects lined up for the summer. As **Jim** gets older he finds the conversation with family and friends often turns to doctors, health problems, and operations. Amen!!

**Allan Connell** writes: **Terry and I** visited our son **Chris** and his family in Oslo, Norway in January. His wife, **Sara**, is expecting their second child in May and we plan on going back to see our new granddaughter in June. This will be our fourth grandchild! It was awesome visiting in the winter, got to go cross-country skiing, which is their national sport, and the conditions were great. Went on my annual ice fishing trip on Lake Champlain on the Vermont side in March. The ice conditions were a little shaky, but we managed to fish for three days and caught some really nice pike. **Terry and I** also squeezed in a trip to Jupiter, FL, to visit my brother and his wife. Had really nice weather and was able to play golf a few times and just relax on the beach. Sequestration took its toll on me. I am no longer working two days a week at the Riverhead field office--the axe fell in January. I was really enjoying the work and felt like I was helping out in the office. I have been hired by the Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing program to conduct inspections of their operations to certify that they meet the criteria to be certified as being sustainable operations. It is kind of like the AEM program but a little more intense. This is a voluntary program that has been modeled after similar programs in Oregon and California.

**Dick Crowe** writes: **Elaine and I** just returned from our annual two-months in North Port, FL. They enjoy getting out of the winter weather of ice and snow, plus they enjoy the ice cream strawberry shortcake at Parkdale Farms in Plant City, FL. April 17-24 they will be attending **Dick's** 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion from Texas A&M. In September, 2013 they are planning on returning to Ireland to continue their geneology research on the Crowes. In 2011 they found a second and third cousin on **Dick's** father's side. They are hoping to find the house where his grandfather was born. They saw the house on the Irish Sea on Rosslare which **Dick's** great grandfather built and lived in. They find the Guinness is great over there--more creamery than here.

**Tony Esser** writes: **Kathleen and I** keep busy during the winter by doing taxes. Kathleen is still working and does them for her clients, and I do them as an AARP Tax-Aide volunteer. During the rest of the year we find ways to keep occupied either by attending old car tours/rallies (Oregon in 2012) and meets (Louisville in 2012 and San Antonio in 2013); crewing for a hot air balloon in Baltimore, Cornwall Canada, Lake George and other places; and keeping up with our dancing and trying to visit more national parks and historic sites. Over the last three years we have visited about 30. One of my favorites was the Minuteman Missile Silo in South Dakota.

**Fred Gaffney** writes: Since the last 12 years since retirement from NRCS, **Fred** has enjoyed preparing Conservation Plans and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for large dairy, hog, beef, and chicken operations in several states. The time has come to put farm planning behind him and do more camping and botanizing, so he has officially stopped contracting as of December 2012. With his new hip, he plans on doing more hiking as well. Fred has six

grandchildren and one great grandson. **Fred and wife, Kathy**, plan on making more trips to Texas and Michigan to see family.

**Paul Dodd** writes: **Rose and I** had a nice, quiet winter staying home this year. It gave Paul a chance to finish another book that is now at the publishers. It is titled, "My Invisible Friend," and is designed to create interest in history and science in young readers and take older readers on a nostalgic trip back in time. **Rose and Paul** are both thankful for a period of good health and enjoying our great grandchildren, Cole, Julia and Jason. **Paul** also writes that he was saddened by the sudden loss of his dear friend, **John Titchener** and will be attending the memorial service in Vermont on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Fred Gilbert** writes: **Fred and Mary** returned in late March from DeSoto, MO, after attending their brother-in-law's funeral. He also visited with former SAO **Keith Reece** recently.

**John Kick**, former NY NRCS, and retired from MA, wants to notify friends of his father, **Leslie**, that a memorial service will be held on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from noon to 4PM at the American Legion at NY Route 12B, Franklin Springs—one mile south of the Village of Clinton.

**Nancy and Mel Lee** are anxiously awaiting the birth of their first grandchild, a grandson, in July.

**Paul Ray** writes: **Leslie and I** have two new grandchildren—Emily born in December 2012, and Jonah, April 10, 2013. **Paul** is hoping to teach soils labs during fall semester and a course in environmental geology during the spring at SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. He keeps in contact with **Steve Indrick and Mike Townsend**.

The Annual Summer Picnic for the NY NRCS/SCS retirees will be on July 17, 2013 at Dorchester Park in Whitney Point. The event will start around 11:00AM. A fire will be provided for your use, a dish to pass is requested, and there will be a pound auction to raise funds to support our group. Fishing and boating is available on Whitney Point Reservoir. More information and a map of the site will be sent out to retirees closer to the July date. Hope to see some of the more recent retirees there.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [jhcanter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhcanter@bellsouth.net)**

**Healthways Fitness: Clara Raynor** passes on this information for those retirees who have Blue Cross-Blue Shield through FEBP. She says that she and Roy are in this program and get unlimited visits to Healthquest pool/gym in Smithfield for \$25/mo. Clara called Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and they gave her the number to call to get enrolled. Once you get enrolled, you can even use approved facilities throughout the USA w/membership card provided. Here is the telephone number for "Healthways Fitness Your Way" (1-888-242-2060) and their email is [FYW@healthways.com](mailto:FYW@healthways.com)

**World War II Veterans:** We are compiling a list of World War II Veterans who worked for SCS in North Carolina. To date, we have identified 80 employees who served in WW II--19 of these are still living.

## OHIO

**Larry Tornes, ARSCE Representative**

**Email: [larytornes@aol.com](mailto:larytornes@aol.com)**

**Larry Tornes** reported that **Paul Chester and Terry Schroeder** are retiring in Ohio. Their celebration dinner will be celebrated in Findlay on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

It was a great day to be out and about for the Oregon retiree quarterly lunch with its clear skies and warm temperatures. Twenty-eight attended the spring quarter lunch including **Stefanie Aschmann, Keith Cromwell, Clifton and Marva Deal, Kay Denfeld, Gary Formanek, Roy Fox, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Howard and DD Kido, Jon Lea, Roy Mann, Chad McGrath, Frank and Elisa Reckendorf, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Joe Sahlfeld, Patricia Straka, Rick and Randy VanKlaveren, Gail Voge, Ralph Wadleigh, Don and Diana Wallin, Beth Zetter**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

The focus for this lunch was getting caught up with lots of visiting. We heard about upcoming trips abroad and a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Also mentioned were replacement hips and knees, and other retirement age related delights. Rick and Randy haven't visited the area for some time, so it was especially good to see them and get their update. I received a number of regrets including those from **Dick Verboort**. He said he and **Theresa** would be in San Francisco

getting acquainted with their new granddaughter, just five weeks old. Dick and Theresa now have nine grandchildren. Faithful attendee **Eldena VanderZanden** wrote to tell me that volunteer work pre-empted her attendance.

**Bob Graham** reported that he and **Iann** are having a great time on their ranch in Central Oregon. They are enjoying trail-riding and gun-dog activities. Bob's parents, **Cal and Doris Graham**, who live nearby, are also doing fine. Cal just turned 93.

**Jack Kanalz** told me that he and **Geneal** would be in France the day of the lunch. They plan to take a cruise on the Seine River, ending at the beaches of Normandy. Then they will spend some time viewing other WWII sites. Jack said that they would undoubtedly sample some excellent wines.

**Bill Hughey** said that he and **Jean** would still be at their home in Arizona. They are now splitting their time between there and their home in the Washington state. On the way back to the Northwest, they plan to take a leisurely trip up the California and Oregon Coasts.

**Pat Willey** wrote that he is finding retirement to be harder work than he expected. He did admit that he doesn't wake up quite so early these days.

The next quarterly lunch will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup> at the The Old Spaghetti Factory at Tanasbourne. Please join us.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**William Bowers, ARSCE Representative**

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

**Don and Shirley Lindsey** are doing fine. The winter has gone (at least around here). The birds are busily building nests and the sun is shining. What more could we ask for? Don has been helping with the farm (now our daughter, Julie's). There have been 11 lambs born so far, including triplets, each weighing about 10 pounds! We had a mini-vacation recently and went to visit an old friend on her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, attended a fun dinner theater (Rainbow) and stayed over in Lancaster County at a bed and breakfast. Don is busy planting the garden right now.

**Bob and Donna Rakestraw** spent the last two weeks of Nov. 2012 touring four of the Hawaiian Islands. They saw many unbelievable sites. Bob said it is a very nice place to visit, but he questions if he would want to live there. The one bad item of the 13-day vacation was Bob got on the plane in Hawaii with a pain in the tummy. After they got home, the pain increased. Five days later the doctors finally decided that he had the shingles, which stayed around for most of the month of Dec. But all is finally starting to improve now.

**Donald McCandless** says that it looks like Spring is finally coming to western PA. It was 72 degrees and sunny here today, but last Thursday morning it was 14 degrees--a new record cold morning for April 4, 2013. All is well here on the farm. The deer are very hungry since we had a low acorn crop last fall. Ten to 15 deer have been here in the yard and CREP land between house and farm pond almost every night the past two weeks. Several acres of crown vetch seems to be attracting them. Will reach the big 80 in July, and 25 years of retirement from SCS have gone very fast.

**Rose Marie and Dale Updegraff** took a ski trip to Quebec City for the annual Winter Carnival that featured beautiful snow sculptures and many activities. It was bitter cold but we dressed in plenty of layers. Our hotel was the beautiful castle Chateau Frontenac inside the old walled city. A Masquerade Ball was part of the festivities with hundreds of people and amazing costumes. We took a scenic train ride to one of the ski areas with a delicious breakfast onboard. A tour of an Ice Hotel was fascinating and even featured an ice slide inside! People get married there in a chapel made of ice and stay in rooms, all made of ice. We also visited a chocolate factory, Montmorency Falls (higher than Niagara), a copper factory, and Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Catholic Basilica. It is said that people are cured there, and there are many crutches left behind. Quebec is a great city with lots to do and fantastic restaurants. This was our third trip so we went back to some of our favorites. The Canadians really know how to celebrate Winter!

**John and Ann Akers** have been busy cutting up some red oak trees this winter that died from the blight this past year. A neighbor uses the bigger pieces for firewood for his fireplace, and I'll use the rest at the Crystal Spring Camp Meeting for Camp fires this summer. Ann and I went on a six-day bus trip to Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA. At Charleston we went out to see Fort Sumter and some other historic sites around Charleston. On the trip to Savannah we took a tour of the Magnolia Gardens that used to be a rice plantation before the Civil War. In Savannah we had lunch at Paula Dean's restaurant, which was a nice experience. We also toured some of the historic sites, including the oldest Catholic Church in the city. It was a nice trip, and we did not have to shovel snow that PA had to do the week spring came in. The first Wednesday of April I had a bone spur removed from my right foot and am walking around with a boot on. Will probably have a few weeks wearing the boot. Hope that the pain and inconvenience are all worth it.

**Peter Vanderstappen**—The recent passing of **Barry Isaac's Mom and Todd Furman's Dad** brought memories back to me of the passing of both my Dad and Mother, just last December. I have always wondered about these types of announcements and what kind of response the recipients get. I am sure it varies but I will say that in my experience I



did appreciate the words of condolence, all those that participated in signing and sending cards, and the donations to my parent's church. It shows me that NRCS, in many ways, is a big family. The good news is that our first grandchild was born in Alexandria, VA. My mother had the opportunity to see pictures before her passing. The cycle of life continues.

**Bill and Mary Ann Bowers** - We recently returned from our first bus trip. We toured the Greenbrier Hotel, a coal mine, and saw the largest radio telescope east of the Mississippi River (known as the GBT—Great Big Telescope, no it is really the Green Bank Telescope), all in West Virginia. Bill is very happy to have the spring weather FINALLY here. He has the garden planted with spinach, onions, lettuce, sugar peas and potatoes. Come on warm weather. We will be headed to Corpus Christi, TX in April to visit our daughter. We spent Easter with our grandkids and enjoyed every minute. They are growing up so quickly. Emily is 14 and Ben, 13.

***Please make plans to join the PA Retirees at "Mushrooms and Flowers" on September 16<sup>th</sup> for the annual picnic/meeting! We will be at a Chester County mushroom farm and Longwood gardens.***

**Fred Bubb**—I made my first trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996, with one or two trips a year until this past year. The biggest blessing from those trips is seeing a generation grow up, starting with very mixed up teenagers who had just survived the war. Now they are grown, married, and most with children. Four of those teenagers sometime in the early years asked if I would be their grandfather as their fathers and grandfathers had been killed in the war. To this day I am their Grandpa, and I have four great-grandchildren. Times moves on. This year my doctor said I can no longer go to Bosnia due to my health. They are still my Bosnian family, and we keep in touch with Skype, Facebook and the internet. I am blessed to have two families. Recently I went to the Smithsonian Aerospace Museum near Washington, DC. I was happy to find an NRCS display in the museum on soils. I very much enjoyed a visit with one of our Beltsville employees.

**Fred Schuetz** recently received recognition for community service by having been presented with the Collegeville Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Citizen of the Year Award. According to Fred, a most memorable of many civic involvements was the planning, design, and construction oversight of a twelve-acre neighborhood park. It was almost like being the Government Representative on a PL-566 project. Within this project was the restoration of a strong spring flow into a small water garden and frog pond. This was almost like a PL-46 Spring Development for livestock watering. Fred said, interestingly, the contractor, a Delaware Valley College Agronomy graduate, was certain it would not work.

**From The Good Old Days:** While working on stream bank restoration on the Cowanesque River after the Agnes Flood in 1972, **J. W. Burgess** found a bottle with a note inside asking the finder to let **Sue**, the writer, (age 9) know where and when the bottle was found. J. W. found it one day after it was put in the water. The Cowanesque River flows east across Tioga County, north into New York State, into the east branch of the Susquehanna River, into the Chesapeake Bay and into the Atlantic Ocean. J. W., whose home was in Mississippi, sent the note to his sister in Mississippi who wrote a note to Sue telling her that they found the bottle on the bank of the Mississippi River and noticed the note in it. Sue and her parents were mystified, so J. W.'s sister sent the original note to Sue. Her parents could not believe that bottle went down the Susquehanna, into the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico and up the Mississippi in a week or so. Several years later, Sue and her parents were sitting across from **Don Lindsey** at a dinner meeting. He asked Sue if she had ever put a note in a bottle. Her mother, upon hearing the question, almost choked on her dinner. She looked at Don and said, "What do you know about this?" Don then shared the entire story about J. W. and his MS sister. The mystery of the traveling bottle was solved, even if it took a few years.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Mark W. Berkland, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [mberkland@homesc.com](mailto:mberkland@homesc.com)**

The South Carolina retirees will have a spring luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The luncheon will be held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, 2580 North Road, Orangeburg, SC 29115 on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, starting at 11:45AM. A room has been reserved for the NRCS/SCS Retirees meeting.

**James Williams** made arrangements for us to eat lunch, and after the meeting attendees can participate in the Orangeburg Festival of Roses at the Rose Garden in Orangeburg.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
State of South Carolina

Clemson Agr'l.  
College of S. C.  
and U. S. D. A.  
Cooperating

Pickens, S. C.  
October 28, 1936

Extension Service

Dear Farmer:

Our Soil Conservation Program has been in operation for slightly more than a year. Satisfactory progress has been made during this period but with the equipment that we have a long time will be required before work can be done for every farmer who desires it. In order to promote the work and increase the efficiency of the organization plans for work must be made in advance.

During the past several weeks the Assistant in Soil Conservation and the Camp Staff have been making plans for terracing during the winter months and planning as much as possible for terracing next summer. Unless planning is done in advance our progress will necessarily be slowed up. Because of the extra heavy duties of our Soil Conservation Staff it is impossible at this time to see all farmers who have requested a visit and who have requested work during the coming months. I am sending you this letter to help you in planning for work on your farm and if you will follow the suggestion below, I am sure that work can be done on a part of your farm next summer with the possibility of completing the farm the following fall or winter.

Instead of planting your grain this fall in two or three different fields, if you can arrange to plant it in solid fields, or plant from the top of the field down if a whole field is not to be planted, this will enable us to begin work at the top of the field in case you desire it next summer.

The Soil Conservation work which is being carried on in this county furnishes an opportunity to a man to put his farm in better condition than he can do it with his own equipment. I hope that you will follow this suggestion and get the work started on your farm as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

*T. A. Bowen*

T. A. Bowen,  
County Agent

"KEEP THE GOOD LAND GOOD"

*Dennis Bauknight recently sent Mark Berkland this letter. Dennis said the letter was recently found, and it had special meaning to him, as it is thought to be referring to land owned by his mother's family.*

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Michael Kuch, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [miklon@swiftnet.net](mailto:miklon@swiftnet.net)**

From **Penny**: A gathering of SCS/NRCS retirees will be held in Pierre August 2-4, 2013. I hope you can all come. I know the thing I miss the most about the agency is the people; and I'm sure others feel the same. Please join us in Pierre in August to catch up. The more people that can come, the more enjoyable it will be. Everyone is welcome to the gathering, whether or not you're a member, though. Contact Mike for a list of places to stay or camp in Pierre and Fort Pierre.

**Jim Rezek** in Sioux Falls Retired DC Parker: Mike, I got the info about the Pierre meeting. Sure would like to attend but doubt if I can make it as we both have had some health issues recently. Still would like to get a list of members to see if I know anyone.

**Gary Coplan** in Sioux Falls, retired AC Brookings: My wife and I moved from Brookings to Sioux Falls in 2010 after we both retired. We enjoy it here and are able to see our kids and grandkids often, with them living in Sioux Falls, Yankton and Shakopee, MN. Our address is 6305 S. Vintage Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57108; Ph. (605) 271-1926; Email is [jcoplanj@sio.midco.net](mailto:jcoplanj@sio.midco.net). Always enjoy hearing from everyone!

**Dave Konechne** in Pierre and Arizona, Retired Engineer from Pierre (Also a "traitor" who left the agency, but we will forgive him for that--maybe): **Elaine and I** spent January thru March in Sun City West, AZ. Elaine works part time for Countryside Hospice Dementia screening clinic. I formed my own consulting engineering business and have contracts with the Federal Fish and Wildlife and with the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. I think Elaine will be giving me a Ping G-25 driver for Father's Day. Sounds like Dave got into that GOLF thing when he was down in Arizona!

## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [arnolddking@hotmail.com](mailto:arnolddking@hotmail.com)

The April 2013 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00AM on Friday April 19th, 2013 at St Ann's Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd, Burleson, TX. Refreshments will be provided by **Betty Sisson** and **Anita Plummer**. **Billy Teals** will present a program on his travels to Costa Rica.

Sixteen members were present for the March 15, 2013 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Don Newman, Anita Plummer, Betty Sisson, Joe Nichols, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Bernie Owen, Jim and Jere Rickman, Dennis Gaster, Bernelle Baxley, Dave Drennan, and Bonnie McKee.**

**Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting as President **Marie Garsjo** was at a professional meeting in Cuba.

### MEMBER NEWS:

SCS/NRCS Alumni Club member **Milady Blaha Hejl** will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 21, 2013. She is the widow of **Edmond H. Hejl** who retired from the SCS in 1972. Edmond and Milady regularly attended club meetings until Edmond's death in 1991. Milady continued attending club meetings until about 10 years ago. Milady was born near Old Dime Box in Lee County, TX, on April 21, 1913 and grew up on a farm. She was the first-born of 11 children and has outlived all but one of her siblings, a sister who is 22 years younger. Milady became an RN and was a public health nurse until she retired in 1973. She lived in Fort Worth from 1947 until 2008 but now resides in an assisted-living facility in Keene, TX. Milady's physical health is still reasonably good, but her memory is quite poor. Members who might wish to honor Milady with a birthday card can send it to her daughter: c/o Susan Hejl, 509 N. Anglin Street, Cleburne, TX 76031.

**Dave Stockbridge** has been making wine for some time now, but the day before our meeting he made his first beer. The wine is for **Barb**, but **Dave** consumes beer, and is impatiently waiting the 2 weeks it takes before drinking. At that time he makes another batch, so when the first batch is gone another is ready.

**Dave Drennan's** wife, **Jean**, is recovering well from surgery for a torn rotator cuff. Dave reported today is the Ides of March, which was not a good time for Caesar. Dave is enjoying going to his grandson's soccer games.

**Don Newman** asks that you remember the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Alumni Reunion is in New Braunfels on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Registration should be returned by April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. For a State Alumni Newsletter and registration form contact Willeene King at [wking@lakegranbury.com](mailto:wking@lakegranbury.com). We always have a large number of our Club members at the reunion and always have a good time.

The date for the free "Shred Day" at the NRCS Federal Credit Union parking lot has been set for Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> between 10:00AM and 11:00AM. Usually each member can have 2 boxes of paper shredded at that time.

**Dennis Gaster** said that **Kathy** is having knee surgery on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They attended a class on knee surgery, and from the amount of people attending it appears business is good. **Jere Rickman** got to watch her grandson play a doubles tennis tournament, and he and his partner came in second. **Elaine Davis** is going to see their grandson who is going into the Marines. **Anita Plummer** talked with **Alta Vick**. **Alta** sends greeting to everyone, and reported that **Claude Crowley** was doing well.

**Bernie Owen** said **Bobbie Fischgrabe** died March 12. **Bernie** has been attending a lot of NARFE meetings and is working one day a week for AARP during the tax season. **Maxine** is going to Tucson, AZ April 20<sup>th</sup> to enjoy their granddaughters and help their daughter-in-law following surgery. **Maxine** reported **Don Kapalka's** lung transplant surgery was successful, and it was reported that **Don** was breathing without assistance. Update: Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, **Don** posted (by cell phone) he had walked a few steps!

**Betty Sisson** has had a lot of trouble with her phone, which was not working from Jan. 8 to Feb. 15. After many short duration fixes, it was determined that the issues reoccurred due to the fact she had a dial-up phone. She emphasized that although it was an old phone, it was not a crank type. Hopefully the phone issue has now been corrected.

**Joe Nichols** said he saw the **Glasscocks**, and that **Lovell** was undergoing some type of treatment that seemed to be helping him. He visited **Bill Brown** who was doing pretty well. **Joe** also said that he took out a subscription to PC Magazine after it was recommended by **Dennis Erinakes**. **Joe** said the current issue was helpful.

**Bernie** reported that some favorable tax related items had now been finalized, such as the annual gift tax, which was increased by \$1,000, education credit continued for 5 years, and increased personal exemptions. We also received a 1.7% COLA. If you take the Star Telegram, you might want to see about a senior discount if you aren't already receiving one. They don't advertise this reduced rate, but will give seniors a 25% discount if you ask for it.

**Sue Hunt** reported that she and the family are doing well and are enjoying life. **Dennis Gaster** reported **Kathy** is recovering nicely from her knee surgery on March 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dennis** is scheduled for surgery on April 15<sup>th</sup> for a kidney stone. He said it is a big one. **Charles and Martha Thompson** reported they have a new e-mail address: [cmt3710@yahoo.com](mailto:cmt3710@yahoo.com). They are looking forward to seeing their Alumni Club friends in New Braunfels at the annual meeting.

**Bill and Emma Adams** are planning a long weekend trip to Whitesboro, KY, to help his mother celebrate her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. They will miss the April meeting but hope to make a meeting soon. **Don and Susan Deal** are doing well and are planning a two-week trip to Paris, France.

**Wayne Weaver** said he and **Mary** are enjoying their new apartment and good food in an Independent Living Facility. Her birthday was on April 10<sup>th</sup> and she had many well wishes and calls. They said to tell you, "Hello from the Weavers. We are enjoying our new home. **Mary** and I are still playing bridge and are letting the 'little old ladies' there show them how!"

**Mike Woodson** said he is fully retired now except for his rental houses that keep him busy. He has also become quite involved at his church. **Trudy** had recently been treated for a detached retina but is doing well now. **Trudy's** son who is a career Marine has been in Afghanistan since February but will be returning home in July. **Bob Fronk** said he is in the middle of cataract surgery. All is fine, but he is waiting for his new prescription for glasses to make everything clearer.

**Clyde Goodman** said **Marla** had injections in her back again to give her relief from arthritis pain. They hope to visit Disneyland in California with their daughter and her family. She is employed by Disney Properties Worldwide and plans trips for individuals to Disneyland and other properties. **Clyde** said anyone planning a trip to one of these parks should contact her organization as they may save money on total costs and may eliminate time spent standing in lines in many cases. He and **Marla** hope to attend the Texas State Alumni Meeting in New Braunfels. They are also looking forward to reunions including a **Goodman** reunion in Colorado Springs where they will be staying at the Air Force Academy Hotel.

**Freddie Williams** said their son **Jeff** is much the same as he was a year ago. He is still in a care facility and is holding on to life. **Freddie** wanted to thank all of their friends who have expressed their love and support for their family. They are grateful for the many prayers and ask all to continue to hold them in prayer.

**Dorothy Green's** daughter, **Melody**, said her mother was with her for some time and is now living in an assisted living facility in a small private home in Desoto, TX. **Melody** said **Dorothy's** hip has now fully healed, and she recently had surgery to improve her vision. She said that when her mother fell on Halloween in 2012 and broke her hip that the anesthesia evidently aggravated her memory loss, and **Dorothy** does not remember her or most of her old friends. **Melody** visits her almost daily and enjoys fixing her nails and spending time with her.

**Hattye "Jo" Rogers**, 84, of Terrell, passed away peacefully on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She is survived by her husband of over 63 years, Joe T. Rogers. [http://acterrell.tributes.com/our\\_obituaries/Hattye-Jo-Rogers-95565328](http://acterrell.tributes.com/our_obituaries/Hattye-Jo-Rogers-95565328)

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [gjr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:gjr52pdr@aol.com)

Attending recent retiree luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffett were **Chet Jahn, Gary Johnson, Ralph Schmidt, Ken Kaul, Larry Edmonds, Jerry Richard, Carl Vennes, Jud Melton, and Harry Riehle**.

**Jud and Karen Melton** are planning to host a summer potluck at their river-front home at Post Falls for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. It will be held in August on our usual first Monday of the Month meeting date. So mark your calendars for August 5, 2013 and plan to spend an afternoon of good food and companionship.

We were sorry to hear about **Helen Jean Tegner** passing away (See Memorial Section). Her husband **Bob** was likely one of the first public relations specialists to be appointed to a state office, in this case by **Galen Bridge**, when he was the state conservationist in Spokane. Bob had had previous experience as a newspaper reporter in several locations and was well known for the many multi-media conservation programs that he developed for the SCS.

**Marilyn Mitchel** has moved to Monterey, CA to be near her daughter Jane. This will be a good move for her, knowing that she'll enjoy her grandchildren and great grandchildren. All her friends in Spokane will miss her.

**Larry Edmonds** celebrated a gala 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 23, 2013. **Jean** was the master planner of the celebration that occurred at their home west of Nine Mile Falls. Jean couldn't keep the party a secret, but she surprised Larry with the large number of guests (57), which included family, friends, co-workers, and farmers and ranchers. Some of the guests were from the retiree group and included **Jud Melton, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Carl and Paula Vennes, and Jerry and Phyllis Richard**. Photo credits go to Hans, Kathryn and Jud.



*Larry Edmonds in the middle, talking economics*



*Carl Vennes, Larry Edmonds*

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [jwpeterson@cox.net](mailto:jwpeterson@cox.net)**

**Barb and Warren Lee** will soon return to Virginia after enjoying four months of sunshine, golf, renewing friendships and some remodeling of our winter home. They will meet up with the South State Conservationists and Friends group in North Carolina on their way home for more of the same.

From **Ron Marlow**: "I appreciate the many notes through the years from members thanking me for my work as the ARCSE Secretary Treasurer. When I recently received word that **Axel Bolesen** had passed away (see In Memoriam), it reminded me of one I received transmitting some obituary information back in 2009. It may have been the first and is the most memorable. The note had a printed heading that read "A note from Axel" and in the upper right corner a very nice picture of a smiling Axel in a suit with a cabinet of books in the background. The hand written note began "Ron - Thank you for stepping in to replace Neil." That made my day." As it should have Ron. Well done.

**John and Ruth Stierna** were forced to spend a day at the Masters practice rounds this year in Augusta, GA. Augusta National was in beautiful conditions with flowers in full bloom and the course in absolute manicured condition. They stayed in Columbia, SC, and had the opportunity to visit the Secrets of the Maya Exhibition at the South Carolina State Museum.

Then they traveled to San Francisco, bringing beautiful weather with them to the Bay area, in order to visit their daughter and family. John was there to participate in the 2013 National Conference on Trusteeship for Universities and Colleges. Not wanting to pause too long after they returned home, John headed off to Hancock, MI, to participate in graduation activities at Finlandia University where he is the Chair of the Board.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Retirements:** **Judith Jardine**, Soil Conservationist in the Parkersburg Service Center plans to retire on April 30<sup>th</sup>. **Clay Handley**, Soil Conservation Technician at the Summersville Service Center, has set May 3<sup>rd</sup> as his date to retire. **Ron Wigal**, Environmental Specialist at the Morgantown State Office, has set May 31<sup>st</sup> for his retirement date. Best of luck to our new retirees.

**Deaths:** After enjoying a week at Myrtle Beach with his family, Geologist **Gordon Bayles** had a major stroke which took his life. **Patrick Fairbanks**, son of **Terry and Judy Fairbanks**, passed away on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Judy shared the following with us: "It gave me some comfort to learn how my son died. He was driving from Parsons to Morgantown and lost control of his car in a curve. His brothers studied the tire tracks to see where Pat fought for control in the gravel. At one point, his car appeared to grab hold, but when the car hit a rock, it threw him into the path of a school bus filled with 40 Junior High School children returning from a science fair. The kids saw his car was going to hit them when, at the last second, Pat was able to brake and jerk his car away from them. They watched him go over a bank

and eject through the sunroof. The last sounds my son heard on this earth were children praying for him. Several children, parents, and grandparents have come to me sharing that one student wrote on Facebook, "A man died today, trying to save my life. He is my Hero!" The car flipped 3 times with Pat's Rottweiler, "Bones," in the back seat. The dog suffered a dislocated hip, but climbed up to his master. Pat's daughter took Bones and he is now a very happy, spoiled dog. I can't believe Pat wasn't wearing a seat belt, but Terry can fuss at him now. More information about Gordon and Patrick can be found in the memorial section of this newsletter.

**Updates:** An appeal was sent to retired SCS/NRCS employees inviting them to volunteer at the **2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree** to be held July 14-24, 2013 in Fayetteville, WV, at the newly-developed National BSA High Adventure Camp. The NRCS and other federal and state agencies are collaborating to develop and staff a Conservation Trail with agency exhibits and hands-on activities for attendees and guests at the National Jamboree.

Jim Clevenger reported that he and his wife Mary "spent two wonderful months, Jan and Feb, on beautiful South Padre Island Texas. The weather was beautiful most of the time and I played golf with my winter Texan friends twice a week. This was our 15th winter in Texas and we have made many friends who come there from all over the Midwest for the winter. We spend most of our time volunteering for our Church, my Kiwanis Club, and taking care of the old family farm."

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [ljenlow@att.net](mailto:ljenlow@att.net)**

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on April 11, 2013, at Fitzgerald's Restaurant, Middleton, WI. **Stan Dingle** was the gracious host.

Those in attendance included **Stan and Marlene Dingle, Jim Enlow, Ken and Joann Lubich, Howard and Sue Gundlach, Robert Weihrouch, Alison Pena, Jim Kaap, Gene Nimmer, Tom Thrall, John Baker, Keith and Dottie Behling, Roman and Bea Statz, Pat Leavenworth, Bob and Jeannine Uhrig, Bill and Marty Schaller, Bill and Virginia Conner and Ted Manning.**

This was a great turnout to celebrate the end of winter and snow (hopefully). **Pat Leavenworth** gave the group a brief talk about the new state conservationist, **Jimmy Bramblett**. Jimmy plans to attend some of our future luncheons and the group is anxious to meet him.

**Alison Pena**, NRCS Retiree, and now the legislative chair for the local NARFE chapter, gave an interesting and informative talk about the benefits of being a member of NARFE and had membership applications for the group.

The next luncheon meeting is scheduled for June 13 at the Tuscumbia Country Club, Green Lake, WI.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

**Marc Safley, Chronicler**

### **Senior Conservationist**

**Billy C. Griffin**

Senior Conservationist Billy C. Griffin was born at Waelder, Texas. Waelder is in Gonzalez County about 80 miles east of San Antonio. Billy grew up on his family's farm-ranch and graduated from high school there in 1946. He enrolled in Southwest Texas State University following high school and graduated with a B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1950. Billy then served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict from 1951 until he was discharged in January of 1953. During this period he spent a year in Korea with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. After leaving the Army, Billy enrolled at Texas A&I-Kingsville in a graduate program, but due to low enrollment his classes were closed and he had to leave school. He applied for a job as a school teacher and was hired at Bandera, Texas, to teach high school science (he also served as an assistant coach and part time bus driver!).

Billy began his conservation career at Bandera at the suggestion of his roommate, **Tom Shiflett**. From February 1954 until 1966 he worked there, first as a Soil Conservationist, then as Work Unit Conservationist. In 1966 he accepted the position of District Conservationist at San Antonio. He directed that field office until 1970 when he was promoted to Area Conservationist, headquartered at Pecos, Texas. He led that Area until 1972 when he was transferred to Temple, Texas, to be Area Conservationist there. In 1974, Billy was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at the SCS State Office at Temple where he worked for two years. In 1976 he accepted the job of Deputy State Conservationist for Mississippi. In 1981 he was promoted to State Conservationist there. He and his family spent a total of seven years in Mississippi before Billy was called to lead SCS operations in his home state of Texas. Billy retired January 3, 1986, from his Texas State Conservationist position.

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

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

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

## OBITUARY INFORMATION

### *Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer*

To representatives and members who continue to send well composed memoriam, I send a great big "thanks." It really reduces my effort in that I do not have to do any research other than check and update the ARCSE files and note if the person was an honorary member and/or a senior conservationist.

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 of the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search.

In regards to finding obituary information, the following can be most helpful for locating obituaries:

1. The name of the funeral home handling the arrangements, since most now have websites where they post the obituary.
2. The name of the local newspaper most likely to carry the obituary.
3. Where neither of 1 or 2 are available, the name of the most recent hometown of the deceased.

## IN MEMORIAM

## SURNAME

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- Ayen** **Beverly Ayen** (63) of Urbandale, IA passed away on December 21, 2012. **Beverly** was the wife of **Jim Ayen**, retired SCS State Resource Conservationist. She is survived by her husband, **Jim**, daughters **Kari (Scott) Severson; Kimberly (Ken) Ewing** and **Erik (Holly) Ayen**, and four grandchildren.
- Baker** **Mary Elizabeth Baker** (55) of Clinton, Maryland passed on March 3, 2013 at Southern Maryland Hospital. She was the beloved wife of **Robert H. Terry Jr.** She was an administrative assistant working for NRCS for twenty-seven years. She was located in Beltsville, MD, having also served in the former East Region office and in the New York State Office. Along with her husband she is survived by two daughters, **Jordan Elizabeth** and **Lauren Emma Terry**.
- Bayles** Member **Gordon Blaine Bayles** (76) of Morgantown (Stewartstown), West Virginia passed away on April 1, 2013, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Myrtle Beach, SC. Blaine graduated West Virginia University and was a U.S. Air Force Veteran. He retired in 1994 as geologist with the Soil Conservation. He was a hunter and gardener. He is survived by four sons: **Steven Lee** of Orlando, FL, **David (Kristen) Bayles** of Morgantown, **Daniel (Courtney) Bayles** of Morgantown, and **William (Shelia) Bayles** of Longview, TX; three daughters-all of Morgantown: **Sheirl Fletcher**, **Sharon Offutt**, and **Donna (John) Messiora**; and thirteen grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Glenna Byrle Everly Bayles**, April 13, 1998. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.spearfuneralhome.net](http://www.spearfuneralhome.net).
- Beougher** **Virgil D. Beougher** (79) of Ellsworth, Kansas passed away on March 4, 2013 at his home. He retired in 1996 as a district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service where he worked 38 years. Virgil is survived by his wife of 26 years, **Connie** of Ellsworth; sons, **Duane Beougher** of St. Louis, MO and **Darrel Beougher** of Dighton; daughters, **Debra Beougher** of Wellington and **Diane Beougher** of Yoder; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church or Boy Scouts of Ellsworth, in c/o the funeral home, PO Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439.
- Boilesen** Senior Conservationist and member **Axel Christian Boilesen** (89) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on March 21, 2013. He retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1978 as head of the engineering design unit for the Midwest. **Axel** graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in civil engineering. He was a Veteran of World War II in Central Europe including Battle of the Bulge. **Axel** was proud of his military service but it taught him to abhor war and align with peace activism. Axel was united in marriage to **Betty Ann Barr** on Aug. 25, 1945. His Danish sense of humor and positive attitude were a delight to all who knew him. Survivors: sons, **James Boilesen** (Lincoln), **Doug (Sharon) Boilesen** (Denver); daughter **Bev (Ron) Jester** (Lincoln); five grandsons, and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by wife, **Betty**. Memorials to St. Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Boquet** **Bert Boquet** (96) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on June 20, 2012. Bert attended the University of Nebraska and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1953. He served in the armed forces during WWII. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Eleanore**. Memorials: Alzheimer's Association Lincoln/Greater Nebraska Chapter, 1500 S. 70th, Suite 201 (06).
- Clark** **Mary Francis Clark** of Omaha, Nebraska passed away on Feb 1, 2013. She was the wife of Bill Clark.
- Crandall** **Pat Crandall** (61) of Woodbury, Minnesota passed away peacefully on February 6, 2013. She had Ataxia, which her father and sister also had and were deceased already. She retired from NRCS in administrative section of the St. Paul state office. She is survived by husband of 39 years, **Gary**; daughters **Kate Schneider (Mark)** and **Kristie Eid (Brent)**; and four grandchildren. Memorials preferred to National Ataxia Foundation. 651-777-2600 [www.sandbergfuneralhome.com](http://www.sandbergfuneralhome.com)
- Edwards** **Thomas D. Edwards** (64) of Delaware passed away on February 28, 2013 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He graduated in 1970 from the Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and went on to serve his country as a member of the United States Army until 1973. **Tom** served as district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 40 years, **Linda**; son, **Stephen (Sandy) Edwards** of Dublin; daughter, **Kristen (Jonathan) Wish** of Bellefontaine; and two grandchildren. Contributions in Tom's memory may be made to the William Street UMC Foundation or to the Boy Scouts of America, Simon Kenton Council.
- Fairbanks** **Patrick Warren Fairbanks** (51) of Parsons, WV passed away on April 10, 2013. He was the son of the late The Reverend **Terry Glen Fairbanks**, who retired in 1991 as an engineer with the Soil Conservation Service, and **Judy Dale Barr Fairbanks**, who survives at Parsons. Also surviving are one son and one daughter, four brothers and one sister. Preceding him in death is one brother.



## IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

## SURNAME

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- Fischgrabe** **Bobbie Jean Fischgrabe** (80) of Moody, Texas passed away on March 12, 2013. She had fought COPD with continuous oxygen for almost 14 years. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, **Otto Dale Fischgrabe**, a retired Deputy State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. Also surviving are a daughter, **Debra (Karl) Long** of Alvarado, TX; and sons, **Steve (Debbie)** of Unionville, MO; **Duane (Melodi)** of Rogers, AR; **Dennis (Diane)** of Beulah, MI; and **Dru (Brenda)** of Hutchinson, MN; ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. For those desiring, the family has suggested OSYMBMA in care of Nelda Schmidt, 14290 Siler Road, Moody, Texas 76557 for memorial contributions.
- Hackbart** **Arlo Hilbert (Hack) Hackbart** (85) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on September 25, 2012. In 1944 he graduated from Ashton High School. He served in the Korean War 425<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group 8<sup>th</sup> Army and was an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation and the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Hack retired in Tecumseh, Nebraska after 31-1/2 yrs with the government. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, **Melva**; daughter **Terry (Joel) Wiegand** of Grand Island, NE; daughter **Lori Cook** of Lincoln and son **Ronald Hackbart** of Omaha; and seven grandsons and three great grandchildren. Memorials may be directed to the American Heart Association.
- Hamon** Member and Senior Conservationist **Carrol Hamon** (86) of Longmont, Colorado passed away on October 19, 2012. Carrol attended a one room school house before completing high school in Hollister, MO, graduating in 1944. Drafted by the U.S. Army he served in the European Theater of War with the 187<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers where he built bridges and cleared roads for the advancing allied forces, fighting in the battle of Bastogne and later fighting with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army across Germany. After some months on German occupation duty he moved to Colorado entering college first at Ft. Lewis and later Colorado A&M where he graduated in 1951 with a degree in agronomy. Carrol married his sweetheart **Alice Marie Skidmore** of Norwood, CO, in 1946, whilst still an undergraduate. They were married 64 years. Moving first to Sterling, CO, working with the Beet Sugar Foundation, he eventually accepted an appointment with the Soil Conservation Service and served in Cortez, Cripple Creek, Longmont, and at the State Office in Denver where he capped off his career as State Agronomist, retiring in 1987. After retiring from federal service, Carrol continued his love of agriculture and for many years worked for the Colorado State Natural Resources Conservation Service as a consultant. Active in numerous community activities, the Hamon Family was selected by KLMO in 1974 as the Boulder County 4-H Family of the Year. Carrol is preceded in death by his wife and daughter Deanna Ruth Seeley. He is survived by his son **David William Hamon**; daughter-in-law **Mabel**, granddaughters Alexandra and Caitlin, all of Stafford, VA; a granddaughter and great-grandson and two grandsons. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans in care of Ahlberg Funeral Chapel. Visit [www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com](http://www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com) to share condolences.
- Hoppes** **Don R. Hoppes** (83) of Roca, Nebraska passed away peacefully at home October 7, 2012. He retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service after 40 yrs. He is survived by wife, **Jeanette**, of Fergus Falls, MN; son, **Tom (Merry) Hoppes** of Lincoln, daughter, **Christine (Dan) Wiltshire** of Lincoln, daughter **Mary (Steve) Cecava** of Lincoln, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Also surviving are a stepson and stepdaughter. Memorials may be made to Roca United Methodist Church, 5601 Bennet Road, Roca, NE 68430.
- Jolly** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Col. Edwin Joseph Jolly (Joe)** (97) a native of Albuquerque, passed away on April 2, 2011. **Joe** served in Hawaii, the Philippines and Okinawa in the Army Reserve during WWII from 1942 through 1945. His career with the Soil Conservation Service began in Gallup and in Phoenix. After the war, he resumed work in Phoenix and in Salt Lake City. He transferred to the Dept. of Agriculture in Mexico City then to the Foreign Agriculture Service in Washington and subsequently to the Agricultural Research Service in Minneapolis and finally with the federal government in Washington, DC. **Joe** had a parallel career as a reserve officer in the Army, becoming a logistician. He retired in Washington for a period of time and represented a Paris art firm. When **Joe** and his wife, **Helene Ann (Nancy)** returned to Albuquerque in 1980 he became active in judicial reform and served as president of Court Update. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy** of 69 years, his children, **Margaret Jolly** of Albuquerque, **Frank (Barbara) Jolly** of Charlottesville, VA, **Sylvia (Dennis) Buell** of Gaithersburg, MD, **Mike (Bonnie) Jolly** of Bloomington, IN; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SolAmor Hospice Foundation, 7301 Indian School Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.
- Kurtz** **Camille Kurtz** (65) of Ozark, Missouri passed away on April 14, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, **Ian Kurtz**, retired Grassland Conservationist at the Ozark Field Office, three children, three grandsons and two granddaughters. **Camille** is the mother of **Jamie Kurtz**, Resource Conservationist at West Plains Field Office. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph Cemetery, White Church, Missouri or National Brain Tumor Society, 55 Chapel Street, Suite 200, Newton Massachusetts 02458; [www.braintumor.org](http://www.braintumor.org)

## IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

## SURNAME

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- Meinders** **Hadley Meinders** (90) of Norman, Oklahoma passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 20, 2013. **Hadley's** first job was as a soils laboratory technician for the Soil Conservation Service. He later worked as a Soil Scientist in Guymon, then as soil conservationist in Chickasha, Shawnee, and finally Purcell and Norman, where Hadley retired in 1980. **Hadley** attended Oklahoma A&M College 1941-43 and 1946-49. He graduated with a B.S. and Master's in Agronomy. From January 1943 until December 8, 1945, Hadley served in the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet in World War II. He was awarded the American Theater Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal. He was truly part of America's "Greatest Generation." **Hadley** was widowed in January 1987. He began volunteering for the American Cancer Society soon thereafter, driving cancer patients to their treatments, and for the Norman hospital, where he was a volunteer until retiring in December 2012. He was recognized as the Cleveland County Red Cross Volunteer of the Year for his years of compassionate work. He is survived by his daughter, **Teresa Meinders (Robert) Burkett**; and his son, **John (Lori) Meinders**, and their two children.
- Money maker** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Rector Haynes Money maker** (91) of Lake City, Tennessee passed away on September 30, 2012 in Norfolk, VA. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with honors and also studied at East Tennessee State University and Cornell University. Rector was a veteran having served in WWII and Korea and was a proud member of the Sons of American Revolution. He retired in 1979 as a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was avid University of Tennessee sports fan. He enjoyed short wave radio, gardening, working outdoors, and reading, especially the Bible. **Rector** is preceded in death by wife, **Sue Hutson Money maker**; Survived by: son, **Roger Money maker** of New Mexico; daughter, **Carolyn Money maker** of Norfolk, Virginia; and granddaughter, **Anna Money maker** of New Mexico.
- Moran** **Patricia Moran** (83) of Champaign, Illinois passed away on April 21, 2013 at home. **Patricia** worked for Soil Conservation Service until her retirement. She married **Joseph Moran** on Nov. 26, 1955. She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include one son, **Thomas (Gloria) Moran** of Ann Arbor, MI; one daughter, **Janet (Bill) Plotner** of Champaign; and two grandchildren. She had been a parishioner at St. Matthew Catholic Church since its inception. She was devoted to her weekly Eucharistic Adoration. Memorials may be made to The High School of St. Thomas More (3901 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61822) or to St. Matthew Catholic Church (1303 Lincolnshire Drive, Champaign, IL 61821)
- Owen** **Mary Lou Owen** (81) long-time Lincoln, Nebraska resident, passed away on August 20, 2012. **Mary Lou** was preceded in death in 2003 by husband, **William James Owen**, a retired hydrologist with the Soil Conservation Service. Survivors include five children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Rogers** **Hattye "Jo" Rogers** (84) of Terrell, Texas passed away peacefully on April 7, 2013. She is survived by her husband of over 63 years, **Joe T. Rogers**, a retired engineer with the Soil Conservation Service. Also surviving are three sons, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mrs. Rogers' honor to the First Baptist Church in Terrell, 403 N. Catherine, Terrell, TX, 75160.
- Runnels** **Denny Runnels** of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away April 1, 2013. He was the only son of **Dan and Sharon Runnels**. Dan served in various positions with NRCS in Oklahoma, Illinois, Montana, and Texas and retired from Washington, DC as the Deputy Chief for Management. If you would like to send condolences, Dan and Sharon's mailing address is: 16063 Slick Rd., Kellyville, OK 74039.
- Tegner** **Helen Jean Tegner** (92) of Beaverton, Oregon passed away on April 15, 2013. **Helen** was the wife of **Robert Tegner**, Public Relations Specialist in Spokane, Washington. **Bob** passed away in 1993. She is survived by her sons: **Doug** (wife **Nancy**), **Tom** (wife **Becky**), **Ron** (wife **Lois**), and **Harold** (wife **Cindie**). She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Remembrances in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Cancer Society

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