NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

The Congress—Congress is on recess during the month of August, allowing the DC area some respite from political spin and conflict. However, many bills still require Congressional action, including appropriations for many Federal agencies. Agricultural appropriations, as reported here in June, continue to wait for floor consideration in both the House and Senate. If the committee-approved bill is passed in each chamber, the agricultural appropriation bill will still require some form of conference action to iron out differences, and then final passage in both chambers before it can be sent to the President for his signature. With November elections on the horizon, it is likely that agriculture will be bundled with other agencies into an omnibus appropriation bill that could be considered in September or more likely will be considered after elections. That means that **NRCS will not have final appropriation numbers for several months into the new fiscal year.**

Following is the pattern for recent appropriations for the conservation operations account for NRCS, in millions of dollars.

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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For watershed rehab work, the House bill provides $25 million in appropriation funds and allows another $92 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation, while the Senate provides no funding from either source.

The “mandatory” funding for several farm bill programs would be capped in both the House and Senate committee bills. However, the Senate bill would also permanently cancel $136 million in EQIP funding, and thus block NRCS from seeking to recover those CCC funds in any later year.

RCPP—NRCS has received nearly 600 pre-proposals for conservation work under the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program enacted in the 2014 Farm Bill. Although only $394 million is available for FY 14-15, these submitted pre-proposals requested about $2.8 billion, while offering to provide about $3.0 billion for the conservation work in partnership with NRCS.

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Lake Erie Water Quality—USDA has provided an additional $2 million in conservation funding for Ohio to help implement conservation techniques that will help improve water quality. Earlier this month, water service in Toledo, Ohio was disrupted by algae blooms in Lake Erie that was blamed on phosphorus run-off. The funds are in addition to regular program funding for Ohio NRCS to address a broad array of resource concerns affecting the state and Lake Erie.

Weather—Drought and fires in the West, flooding in the Midwest and East, and scorching temperatures in the South and south central regions foreshadows some serious conservation challenges in the days and months ahead. There is an opportunity to assist NRCS in this conservation work through the Agricultural Conservation Experenced Services Program (ACES). NRCS enters into agreements with nonprofit organizations that provide ACES workers on a part-time or full-time basis. Wages earned do not impact retirement annuities. For information, go to [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill) and scroll down and click on Agricultural Conservation Experenced Services Program.
Jim Jeffords—We note the passing of Jim Jeffords, former Congressman and Senator from Vermont. He was best known for political apostasy, switching in 2001 from being a Republican to an independent, but caucusing with Democrats, thereby shifting control of the Senate from Republican to Democratic. What is not widely known, however, is that he also was one of the pioneers of the farmland protection movement as the sponsor of the Farmland Protection Policy Act that became part of the 1981 federal Farm Bill. The legislation was inspired by food shortages in New England supermarkets occasioned by a Teamsters strike in the wake of the so-called Arab oil embargo during the Carter Administration. This prompted calls for saving New England farmland to assure the region’s food security. The Act requires federal agencies to consider alternatives to projects that would convert farmland to non-agricultural uses. But the law has been largely ignored because there is no enforcement mechanism.

Jeffords’ original bill, which did not pass, would have created a $2 million purchase of agricultural conservation easements pilot program. Instead, Jeffords got an authorization of several million dollars to fund the National Agricultural Lands Study (NALS), and his legislative director Bob Gray went to USDA to run it. More than anything else, NALS was responsible for calling attention to the farmland protection issue. Jeffords’ original idea for an agricultural conservation easement program was picked up a decade later by the current senator from Vermont, Patrick Leahy, in what became the Farms for the Future Program in the 1990 farm bill. It can be argued that subsequent federal farmland easement programs such as the Farmland Protection Program in the 1996 Farm Bill and agricultural land easements in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program in the 2014 Farm Bill, as well as several state and local efforts, have been built on the foundation laid by Jim Jeffords. May he rest in peace under the fertile soil he worked so hard to protect. (Adapted from an article by Ed Thompson in a recent American Farmland Trust newsletter)

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Warren M. Lee, wandblee@comcast.net

During our annual meeting it was a privilege to honor three individuals who are very worthy of recognition.

The President’s Community Service Award was given to Scott Hoag, Jr. from Bozeman, MT. Over the past several years Scott and Nancy have volunteered thousands of hours to the Habitat for Humanity organization, assisting over 60 families to build homes for themselves. Thank you for your service.

We honored Mark Berkland for his leadership in reducing the operating costs of ARCSE by implementing the electronic delivery of the majority of newsletters distributed to our membership and for his efforts in membership recruitment in South Carolina. Thanks, Mark for your continued leadership.

We honored Marlene Mechelke for her efforts in maintaining a strong ARCSE group in Minnesota. Great job, Marlene!

I wish to thank the Soil and Water Conservation Society for allowing us to piggy-back our meeting with their annual meetings. It allows members of both organizations to participate and to keep our costs down. I also want to thank Lee “Crash” Bridgeman for serving as our emcee. Lee and I worked together in the national office and it was fun to catch up again.

More details concerning the President’s Meritorious Service Awards follow. The President’s Community Service Award will be covered more extensively in the next newsletter.

PRESIDENT’S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS: 2014

Name: Mark Berkland

Mark grew up on a farm in north central Iowa where he graduated from Sentral High School and later from Iowa State University. Mark received his Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University in 1970 where he majored in Agronomy and double-minored in mathematics and chemistry. He worked with the Soil Conservation Service and later the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Student Trainee, a Soil Conservationist, a District Conservationist, an Area Conservationist, a State Resource Conservationist, a Deputy State Conservationist, a State Conservationist and Division Director of Conservation Operations, before retiring in 2003. His work found him in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, South Carolina and Washington D.C.

In 2009, Mark became President-Elect of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. He served on the Board as President-Elect until he became President in July of 2011. The Retirees organization had been dipping into the reserve fund at an unsustainable level for several years. While the reserve fund was large, it needed to remain so to cover the cost of future services to life time members and comply with ARCSE policy of maintaining two years of operating budget in reserve. Mark saw that some changes needed to be made in order that the organization remains viable. With Mark’s
encouragement, the board decided to cut expenses. Since the Newsletter was the largest expense for the organization (printing and mailing) the board decided to encourage Members to receive the Newsletter electronically. Because so many members are now receiving the Newsletter electronically, the ARCSE has reduced expenses by approximately $4,000/year and has either balanced the books at year’s end or substantially reduced the amount needed from the reserve funds. In 2013 Mark became Past-President but continued being active by being in charge of several Membership initiatives and worked directly with State Representatives and NRCS Center Directors to implement them.

**ARCSE Activities:** Shortly after retiring to South Carolina 2003, Mark was appointed South Carolina State Representative for ARCSE activities. At that time, South Carolina ARCSE members had not met for several years, nor were they contributing to the newsletter. Because Mark had worked with many of the now South Carolina retirees while he was State Conservationist, he was able to develop a retiree email and address listing that was used to invite folks to an organizational luncheon. By the end of 2013, South Carolina ARCSE membership had grown to 38 members which included 18 new members (a 47% increase in membership) from 2010-2013. The South Carolina Retirees meet each spring and fall. The meetings usually consist of a meal and either a speaker (short-winded is a requirement) or a tour.

Name: **Marlene Mechelke.** Retirement date: January of 1996. Nomination submitted by Norman Kempf, ARCSE Midwest Vice-President

Marlene is a native of St. Paul, MN and still lives in the house in which she was born and which her father built. She will be 82 years old on "Flag Day," June 14th. Her Austrian/Hungarian parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1906 and were great gardeners; thus, her predilection to be involved with soil related activities.

In 1979 Marlene began her Federal career working for the Department of Defense. Shortly after, she took a position with the Soil Conservation Service working as a secretary for the Soils/Plant Science Division. She then spent the next 16 years as a computer specialist. Her responsibilities included setting up the entire computer training program for Minnesota, creating training manuals, and providing training to employees in the field.

**ARCSE Activities:** After attending only two metro-area quarterly retirees’ luncheons in Roseville, MN, Marlene volunteered to be the MN state representative for the ARCSE. Since the former representative, Martin Ziebell, did not have a computer, one of her first jobs was to organize a huge box of papers and create an e-mail list of retirees (living, deceased, or having moved out of the area) to better inform retirees about each other’s health, welfare, location, and travels. She was also able to keep the retirees informed about State and National affairs. She states that spending hours developing the MN contact list has made it easier for her to be a faithful contributor to the ARSCS Newsletter.

A MN Retirees’ Reunion had not been held since 2002, so in 2009, Marlene organized a reunion luncheon in St. Cloud, MN. Seventy-five people attended. Another reunion was held in 2012 at St. Cloud, MN with 39 people attending. Marlene developed a questionnaire to assess people’s interest in holding another reunion.

As a result of this questionnaire, another reunion is tentatively planned for 2015. Marlene freely gives credit to her “partners-in-crime,” Dave and Kay Breitbach, and several other good volunteers whose help was essential to the success of these reunions.

Marlene says that the greatest joy of being the state ARCSE representative is the opportunity to keep in contact with everyone throughout the state.
A BIT OF HISTORY
Douglas Helms, Historian
Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

Helmand Valley Project Revisited
My recent reading prompted me to harken back to the item in the November-December 2012 newsletter, “The Soil Conservation Service’s Work in the Helmand Valley, Afghanistan in the 1970s,” for this month’s contribution. Some time ago I bought and read Polk’s Folly: An American Family in History” by William R. Polk. In addition to President James K. Polk, born near Charlotte, the family included Leonidas Lafayette Polk, the Populist leader and founder of the Progressive Farmer. He also founded Polkton, where my mother lived with her grandmother during the school year in order to attend high school.

The author, William R. Polk, studied Middle Eastern history, languages, and literature in the 1950s, when these subjects were little taught in American universities. I have since read his autobiography, Personal History, as well as Violent Politics, and Humpty Dumpty. As a member of the Policy Planning Section in the State Department, he drove some 2,000 miles throughout Afghanistan in 1962 to learn about the USAID projects. His impression was that the Helmand Valley Authority had concentrated exclusively on the water supply to the neglect of the farmers’ needs for credit, more land and technical assistance. He concluded “Finally, America, which had put out so much money to build the project, failed to provide a single irrigation expert to advise on how to manage it.” (Personal History, page 262). His report on the needed redirection of USAID projects was promptly filed away as Afghanistan received little attention in the mid-1960s State Department. SCS participation in the 1970s detailed in the November-December 2012 newsletter sought to correct some of this oversight.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

Please welcome the following new member to the ARCSE:

Read, Hershel Kitty Hawk, NC

Note that the 2014 Member Locator listing is included at the end of this newsletter.

ARIZONA
Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative
Email: krklingel@aol.com

Chris Williams, Chandler AZ—Karen and I left home on June 23rd along with two of our grandchildren who had flown down from Olympia, WA to travel with us. They are Cade, 15 and Natalie, 12. We loaded up the trailer and traveled to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon that day. We stopped at Marble Canyon on the way and were delighted to have a pair of condors sail over our heads as we walked out on the foot bridge over the Colorado River. They had two fledglings along the cliffs above the river.

Driving down to the Canyon the next morning we found a herd of bison grazing along the road with many calves frolicking among them. After hiking along the rim for a while, we returned to the trailer and moved into Utah and visited Bryce Canyon NP that afternoon. The next day we visited both Zion NP and Cedar Breaks National Monument. How amazing are the colorful rock formations in these areas!

Two days later we arrived in West Yellowstone, MT after a quick stop in the Grand Tetons. A highlight of this visit was a close encounter with a moose and her calf along the road. Cade snapped a wonderful picture of them nuzzling each other.

We spent two days exploring Yellowstone NP. We got caught in a brief thunderstorm with sleet during one of our longer hikes and had to get some new "Yellowstone" sweatshirts to keep from getting too chilled. The combination of the geysers and hot springs along with the variety of wildlife made this visit exciting and educational for all of us. Cade captured a picture of two bear cubs and "momma" in a tree some distance off the road and Natalie caught a sleeping young grizzly bear in her viewfinder. We also found a fox walking along the road up near a snowpack where we had stopped to throw some snowballs.

Our next stop was at the Oregon Trail Historic Museum in eastern Oregon where we decided traveling with our trailer was a lot easier than the way these pioneers arrived from Missouri. Before making the last leg of the trip into Olympia we drove along the Historic Scenic Highway along the Columbia River east of Portland, OR and marveled at the beautiful series of waterfalls found here.
Karen and I then went into teaching mode with a large Vacation Bible School at our son's home church in Olympia. The official registration showed 834 children from preschool through 6th grade, along with nearly 370 volunteers. Karen taught four different Bible stories over a four-day span with three preschool groups each day for three days and four groups of elementary kids on one day. What a blessing and joy to watch these youngsters grow in their understanding and knowledge of God's Word.

Following this, we flew to Pennsylvania where, at this writing - August 11th, we are now participating in our third week-long Bible camp. The first two were day camps and the current one is a resident camp. There have been between 50 and 60 elementary kids in each camp, and Karen teaches once a day. Although we are not small group leaders, we also find other ways to help out during the day when Karen isn't teaching. In the middle of this time we were able to spend 5 days at a friend's cabin in the Pocono Mountains and just relax and enjoy hiking, boating and visiting with friends.

On August 18th we return to Olympia where we visit for a couple of days and then begin our return trip to AZ. We plan to do the Oregon coast and the northern CA Redwoods before making our final dash to AZ with plans to arrive on August 30th.

Rodney M. Alt, Surprise, AZ—Sally and I went on a road trip from Surprise, AZ, to Corolla, NC (Outer Banks) and back from June 24 to July 22. We were in Amarillo, TX for the first two nights, staying with son Rod and wife Mary before they move to Phoenix, AZ.

We spent June 26 in Oklahoma City, visiting the National OKC Memorial and the National Cowboy and Western Museum. We also took the water taxi and learned about Oklahoma City. The National OKC Memorial was great, and everyone should visit it.

Our Next stop was Memphis, TN. We went to see the famous ducks do their walk from the pond to the elevator at the Peabody Hotel. Also, we saw their penthouse at the top of the hotel. (Editor's note: Peabody is pronounced pee-buhdee. The hotel actually has a “Duck Master.”)

We also visited Graceland and learned a lot more about Elvis. We took in the bars and sights on Beale Street for two nights. We left Memphis on Sunday morning in a terrible rainstorm and learned later that there was lots of flooding.

We stayed in Asheville, NC and toured the famous Biltmore Mansion. We survived Hurricane Arthur on July 4th. We were at the north end of the Outer Banks, and Arthur came in at the south end. We enjoyed every day we were there. We golfed, went to a bluegrass concert and a wine tasting event.

We left the Outer Banks on July 17 and arrived Nashville, TN and stayed there for three nights. We took a bus tour, and we saw the Ryman Auditorium, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Parthenon. We saw Brad Paisley and others at the Grand Olde Opry and toured the Gaylord Opryland Resort. We visited the District during the day and then went to the Bluebird Café and then back to the District for the night life. We arrived home on July 22 after being gone for four weeks, and enjoyed it all.

Ken Cookson, Tucson, AZ—My wife, Connie, and I went on a four-week trip to the northwest, visiting family and friends in MT, WA, OR and CA. Our first stop was in Hamilton, MT to visit Ron and Barb Moreland.
We arrived at noon and quickly hit the trail for some “huckleberry” picking. We had good luck and found enough to make a pie. We did some other hiking and picnicking in beautiful country. We also had time to play a couple of rounds of golf.

Marion Strong, Tempe, AZ—My activities are limited; mostly to doctors’ appointments and lab visits. Occasionally I get to visit a new specialist.

Galen Bridge, Tucson, AZ—Just returned from a month’s trip to Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. My perception of these countries was wide off the mark. They are beautiful scenes of geography at 66 degrees of north latitude. In spite being the land of the midnight sun, they produce significant amounts of grains, livestock and grass. Iceland has a unique and unlimited supply of thermal energy. It produces 80 percent of their energy needs and also melts the ice and snow from the streets of Reykjavik. Of course there is a slight threat of a volcanic eruption on any particular day, but these people have a deep-seated love for this place and a so-what attitude.

The Scandinavian people have some of the highest tax rates in the world, but the revenue provides free health care, a universal retirement system, free education through four years of college, child-care, etc. They also live longer than the rest of us and lead the polls in just plain being happy.

Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson, AZ—I turned 88 on August 11. Maybe this gives me license to continue with some foolish (?) activities. On my birthday, I circled the San Manuel airport twice solo in a rented light sport airplane and landed safely twice. After my Biannual Flight Review a few days later, my instructor renewed my Light Sport License for another two years. So, I am good until 90. Give it up then? I know many of you are experienced pilots, but I didn’t start until I was 85.
Bill Fobair, Cottonwood, AZ. Here is a story that leads up to pioneers and homesteaders of the late 1880s and early 1890s of Boyd County, NE. The farm buildings you see in the attached photo were built by Henry's brother in 1894 with his tools, some of which date back to the 1850s and are a part of the museum display. The story follows: From 1995 to 1999 Bill and his wife Joyce, researched Bill's family history in Upstate New York and Quebec, Canada. The first Fourbert, a Staff Sargent arrived in D'Oka, Quebec to fight in the French Indian War in 1750. Following the first War they settled in Vaudreil and Rigaud, Canada. They then migrated to Upstate New York, Cherokee, IA, Farmer, SD, and then Bill's grandparents homesteaded in Boyd County, NE, southwest of Butte where Bill was born. Bill and Joyce have developed a flash drive depicting the early pioneers and homesteaders that will be on permanent display at the Butte Public Museum commencing in early September.

CALIFORNIA
Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative
Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. Our California retirees continue to enjoy a first Wednesday of the month lunch and a third Wednesday of the month breakfast for folks to get together and catch up with the latest on what is going on in our group. Shown below from our July 9th lunch are Tom Smith and Danny Maxim who were on the Engineering Staff under State Conservation Engineer Ted Gerbaz. The six of us shown below enjoyed breakfast together August 20th.
Darwyn Briggs is recovering from a mild stroke that he had in late July. He is recovering from the stroke very quickly and is anxious to get back to fly fishing soon. Me (Bill Ward) being one of his fishing partners, I am anxious for that to happen as well.

Mario Milani, former State Construction Engineer has been dealing with a painful case of “shingles” for some time to the point of losing mobility and pretty much being confined to a recliner in his home. He recently took a fall at home requiring hospitalization. He has now been moved to a care home to undergo rehabilitation. His family is hopeful the rehabilitation process will help him regain strength and some ability to walk soon so he can then return home.

NRCS retiree Mike Simmons attended a memorial for Alex Sheydayi, Retired Director and Leader of Ventura County Flood Control District (now Ventura County Watershed Protection District). With Leadership provided by Alex during his 35-year career, Ventura County became one of California’s strongest local Sponsors for the successful implementation of important watershed protection measures. Together, California SCS/NRCS and Ventura County successfully implemented the Beardsley and Revlon Watershed Projects and many other Conservation and Emergency Watershed Projects that were vital to the protection of important property and resources in Ventura County. A letter of appreciation was prepared by California retirees for the memorial with contributions from Ted Gerbaz, Charles Davis, Mario Milani, Bill Ward and Mike Simmons. Fortunately for California NRCS, Alex’s role with Ventura County has been effectively taken over by his Son Peter Sheydayi, exhibiting the same strong leadership and partnership with NRCS today.

Bill Ward continues to enjoy playing music with either his full Western Lights Band, and more recently with three of his band members playing as a trio. Here is a photo taken from a recent fun performance at a back yard summer BBQ.

In addition, here is a little sample of our music from that BBQ: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kPh5ELRkaU

Have a wonderful rest of the Summer and best wishes from all the California retirees!
GEORGIA

Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative
Email: epdro22@gmail.com

Twenty-nine NRCS/SCS retirees attended the quarterly luncheon at Ryan’s Restaurant in Athens. Those attending meeting were, Carolyn Adams, Elaine Stephenson, Linda DiPietro, Claudette Norman, Beverly Walker, Fred Dilbeck, Bob and Frances Wilkes, Talbert and Beth Gerald, Evelyn and Gerald Sadler, Edna Firor, Edward Ealy, Jimmy Dean, Jim and Judy Helm, June Andrews, Bill and Norma White, Cecil and Gene Martin, George and Ellen Norris, John Mark Hamilton, Don and Evelyn Stewart, Lorraine and Jack Hahn.

George Norris’ grandson, John Mark Hamilton, was our special guest.

Pat Norris, daughter of George and Ellen Norris, is leading a group of “study abroad students” from the University of Michigan on a trip in New Zealand. Cecil Martin and Jean saw Arneal and Colleen Scott at the Athens Mall and visited with them a few minutes. Ron Mize sends greetings from Florida where he is vacationing. Edward Ealy thanked Linda DiPietro for updating the contact list for the retirees’ meetings.

Joyce Smith’s grandson, Randy is in the hospital at Augusta. Kitty Stevens has had leg surgery and was unable to attend the luncheon. James Huff has bad knees and is not getting around very well. George Norris had rotator cuff surgery and is doing well. Richard Higginbotham, retired Cartographic Technician on the Soil Survey staff in Athens, GA, is suffering from Parkinson’s disease. He is now confined to his bed and receiving Hospice care. Maurice and Louise Schaffer are not doing very well.
Announcements were made that Terrance Rudolph is the new State Conservationist in GA. He reported to GA from Tennessee. Katura N. Wright is the new Assistant for Programs. She previously worked in Missouri.

Edna Hinson, retired Administrative Services employee, has passed away. Richard Lee Higginbotham, 69, passed away Thursday, August 7, 2014. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

HAWAII
Strat Waiting, ARCSE Representative (NEW)
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ILLINOIS
Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative
Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net

Sixteen retirees and spouses gathered for lunch and visiting in Litchfield on July 9. Attending were Don and Martha Long, Dave and Maribeth Rahe, Lee and Nancy Bridgman, John and Patty Paden, John Burns, Charles Sykes, Bill Sykes,
Mook and Helen Allen, Albert Dowland, and Dale and Nancy Benz. Albert Dowland recently retired as a Soil Conservationist in the Carlinville Field Office. John Paden has been the coordinator of events for the Southwestern Illinois retirees for many years and has turned the reins over to Dave Rahe. You have been a great leader, John. I think we decided Mook Allen has more heart stents than all the rest of the group combined! Mook is District 1 Vice President of NARFE in Illinois, which is most of the southern one-third of the state. His district hosted the 2014 Illinois Federation of NARFE's annual convention in Carbondale in May, and they did a super job as hosts. Mook urges, and I agree, that retired and working SCS/NRCS's should belong to NARFE.

Pictured seated left to right is Martha Long, Maribeth Rahe, Nancy Bridgman, Patty Paden, Nancy Benz, and Helen Allen. Standing left to right is Don Long, Dave Rahe, Lee Bridgman John Burns, John Paden, Dale Benz, Charles Sykes, Albert Dowland, and Mook Allen.

Judy and John Hummel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. Congratulations and we wish you many more.

Earl and Barb Voss took a ten-day trip to visit their daughter and family in Texas in August. Barb gave a new meaning to the “red eye flight!” The night before they were to fly to Texas, Barb’s eye became very bloodshot. Obviously, they were worried because of flying, so they contacted her doctor who gave her the ok to fly. It was caused by medication and wasn’t from other possible causes. Sounds like they had a good trip.

We extend our sympathy to the Jesse Keller family on his passing in June. Jess is survived by his daughter, Julie, and sons Brad and Mike.

The next gathering of the Illinois retirees will be October 2 at Ryans Steakhouse in Champaign beginning at 11:30. Hope you can attend and enjoy lunch and visiting.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasion, ARCSE Representative

Fifty retirees, spouses and guests gathered June 26th, 2014 at the SCORE Pavilion in Nevada for the summer picnic. It was hosted by Herb Wilson and Bob Dayton. The lunch was catered by Hickory Park, a favorite eating place of many from Ames. It’s always fun visiting with those we haven’t seen for a while. Following lunch, the movie “Dirt–The Movie,” an informative and interesting movie about our valuable resource, was shown. It reminded us how “Dirt” was formed in the beginning and our need to continue its formation and preservation. The need for preservation was needed in Central Iowa that day as we had a very bad thunderstorm with a downpour that lasted awhile. The picnic notice stated if it was a nice day there was ample space to eat outside overlooking the duck pond. The day started out that way, but before long even the ducks couldn’t maneuver the water. However, the weather did not dampen the spirit of the group.

Attending were: Chuck and Phyllis Fisher, Eldon Weber, Sam Shreve, Tom Gust, Ames; Russ and Donna Knutson, Herman and Helen Kopitzke, Gerald and Marion Stevens, Boone; Ron and Marcia Snyder, Burlington; Dick Birchmier, Centerville; Lyle and Charlotte Asell, Charter; Brian Peterson, Corning; Ken and Marge Meyer, Denison; Ron Kuehl, Elkader; Lew and Connie Brent, Knoxville; Roger and Donita Link, Maxwell; Ernie and Pat Aust, Keith McCall, Shenandoah; Roger and Arlene Greenough, Slater; Don and Donna Redman, VanWert; and from Des Moines and
immediate area, Jim Ayen, Tom Birkhiser, Bob Dayton, Mark Jensen, Duane and Mary Jo Miller, Tom O'Conner, Joe Ausan, Deane Glen, Mark Linflot, Don and Kay Peterson, Volney Smith, Don Ummel, Herb Wilson, Rosie and Bob Gaudette, Maralee and Jack Sarasio. Thanks to the hosts for another retirees' get-together.

Mark your calendar for the holiday party November 13th at the Machine Shed in Des Moines. Contact Volney Smith (515) 987-3388 for further information.

RAGBRAI XLII (the bike ride across Iowa) is history. This year it was across northern Iowa from Rock Valley to Guttenberg. Several retirees, along with others, passed out water and bananas to riders throughout the week. This year, I understand, the Banana Mobile was without its usual navigator, Duane Miller, except for the first day. It seems that granddaughters had a way of getting to grandpa. They decided on a train ride to Colorado and lined up a lot of fun things to do after they got there.

Congratulations to Bob and Nancy Mettetal, Leeds, AL, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this month. Bob retired from the Design Unit in the state office.

Dixie Currier, wife of Honorary Soil Conservationist Raymond (Ray) L. Currier, passed away April 19, 2014. They had only recently moved from their home in Ogden, IA to the Eastern Star and Masonic Home in Boone, IA. Ray retired as the DC in Webster City, IA where he had worked most of his career. They had spent winters in Lillian, AL. See the In Memoriam section for details.

KANSAS
Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative
Email: rlull2@cox.net

The end of June brought the Annual Meeting of the Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association. On June 27, 2014, we gathered at the Quality Inn in Salina, Kansas, to visit and reminiscence. This was followed by a carved sirloin and rosemary lime chicken dinner buffet. Attending were, Mike Ahern, Nova Atwood, Tom and Elaine Badger, Don Cooper, Arlie and Dorothy Cox, Duane Evans, Jim and Lorraine Gaskell, Bob and Dorothy Gerdes, Gary and Annetta Kelley, Deanne and Ron Lull, John and Linda Ourada, Loren and Darlene Pearson, John Reh, Bill and De Roth, Robert and Carolyn Roth, Eldon and Betty Schwant, Mary Shaffer, Malcom Strom, Bobby and Glennis Trecek, and Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter

The program speaker, Mark Baxa, is a realtor and auctioneer in the Salina area and also a member of the Army National Guard. He has spent several overseas tours in recent years. His last tour was in Afghanistan where he led an Agricultural Development Team. Their mission was to teach the Afghans how to farm for better production and market for more profit. He shared many slides showing the people, the countryside, and some of their projects, running the gamut from chicken coops to irrigation systems that his team completed. A short business meeting followed in which the following officers were elected: President, John Ourada; Vice-President, Duane Evans; and Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Shaffer.

Kayla Ascher and Greg Henderson are joining the retirement ranks. Kayla, Human Resources Specialist in the Salina State Office, retired on July 1, 2014, completing 36 years of service. She began her career in 1978 on the Soils Staff as an intermittent employee assisting with soil survey map compilation. In 1991 she was assigned to the Personnel Staff as a Personnel Management Specialist, and she held that position until 2002 when she was reassigned as Human Resources Specialist. Also retiring was Greg Henderson. Greg retired on July 4, 2014, as the District Conservationist in the Kinsley Field Office,

Congratulations to Roger Haberman who is celebrating his 80th birthday at an open house on August 23rd. Roger lives in Larned, KS.

Condolences are sent to the Keith Messenger family. Keith passed away on August 15, 2014. He retired in 1990 after serving many years as the District Conservationist at the Dighton Field Office. His wife, Virginia, survives.

We were saddened to learn that two of our retirees recently lost grandchildren. Reed Ash, grandson of Debbie Kaiden, was killed in a car accident on July 26, 2014. He was part of the 2014 high school graduating class. Zach Kindler, 35, grandson of Dorothy Gerdes, died of an apparent heart attack on August 4, 2014. He was the track and cross country coach at Baker University in Baldwin City, KS.

KENTUCKY
Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative
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We currently have 180 Kentucky retirees. Seven retirees live out of state.

Ray Barker: Ray is recovering from surgery on his ankle and doing well. He reports his roses were the worst he's ever seen this year, but his red peonies were the "prettiest you ever saw." Ray is hoping to attend the annual meeting on October 7th at
Natural Bridge for the first time and getting together with old friends. Ray does not have email but would enjoy hearing from you. His address is 819 KY 504, Box 578, Olive Hill, KY 41164.

Anthony Burns: I have taught the NRCS course "Orientation for New Employees" as an Earth Team volunteer during the summer (Greensboro NC, Columbus OH, Beltsville MD and Davis CA). I have been on the training cadre for the course since 2002 and have continued working with the cadre since retirement.

Les Carrithers: A few months after retiring I started a small consulting business that has gone well. Most of my work is now with one company in Uniontown, KY. We are a large farming operation and an oil production company. I do everything from permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, irrigation on row crops, to growing the office garden. It is so much easier to work in the private sector than putting up with all the government stress.

Randi Giessler: I really appreciate the newsletters and read every word. Martha Jo and I are doing fine and stay busy going to church and enjoying our family: two grandsons and a new great grandchild are expected in April.

Allan Heard: Following my retirement from SCS in 1993, I was hired by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County government as a senior municipal engineer. My job involved overseeing construction of a variety of intersections and rebuilding of paved streets and sidewalks. I retired from that job in 2004. Since retiring I've done those handyman chores I'd been putting off. My wife and I traveled to China in 2005—a memorable trip. The Parkinson's disease that I've had for 10 years has finally caught up with me. I'm finding walking particularly difficult. Writing yarns has been one of my favorite pastimes. Recently my wife put together a collection of stories that I'd written about my childhood over the years. Recent cataract surgeries have made it possible for me to enjoy reading about your lives on my computer. I have been blessed. Here's a sample of Allan's writing:

**Shoo fly pie—by Allan Heard**

As the end of my sophomore year of high school approached, I dislocated my right foot while practicing for the school's annual field day. The foot popped back into joint, but the joint was cracked. As a result, I got a cumbersome cast and a pair of crutches for company. This was something like having an anchor. It was so depressing that I lost nearly 20 pounds before I shed the cast.

My buddy Clyde and I had been scheming for some while about damming up a spring-fed hollow to make a clean, cool, swimming hole. At about the time of the mishap, his dad consented to hire a bulldozer to construct the dam. Now the only problem was that the hollow was so wet and swampy, a dozer would have sunk out of sight.

Thus it was that on the day after my cast was taken off we set about the process of draining the hollow. After six weeks in a cast, the ankle was completely rigid, which made walking fairly difficult. Nonetheless, I was free again. I was so happy to be off crutches that I was singing as I walked. The fact that school was out for the summer may have had some bearing on my high spirits.

At this time in my life, I was very much into scouting. Boy Scouts of an earlier era had worn what we now call a Mountie hat. Because of my fair skin, I had long worn a hat during the summer. When I found that the Boy Scout store in Tupelo still had some of these antiques in stock, I got one as my official outdoor symbol.

Thus it was that I set out afoot for the hollow with Clyde, shovel on shoulder and Mountie hat on head. I'm not kidding when I say we were both thrilled and excited at the prospect of draining the swampy hollow and building a pond. As we walked along, we were dreaming aloud of swimming and fishing in the pond that was about to be built.

As we approached the hollow, we came out to a shaded area where some of Clyde's Angus cows had been hanging out. Suddenly, my eyes fell on what I instantly thought to be a wonderful opportunity. There was a large, crusted cow pile. Unfortunately, I did not correctly evaluate the implications of the hundreds of flies resting and feeding on the pile. What I saw was an opportunity to annihilate literally hundreds of flies with one swat of my shovel. Quickly, before they could disperse, I delivered a blow. I sent hundreds of flies to their maker. I also sent several pounds of fresh manure straight to my head and face. The pile was not even close to dry—just crusted.

My eyes were full, my nose was full, my face was covered, but fortunately my mouth was closed. My hat looked hopeless. The top of it was literally paved in manure. I tossed it away and headed for a spring to wash up. It was several days before I quit smelling my offensive coating.

Billeye Haslett: I'm enjoying serving on the Fayette County Conservation District Board. It's pretty amazing what you forget over the years. I'm re-learning conservation from the ground up. Carl and I are planning on going to Beaufort, SC for a vacation in September. Beaufort was recently recognized as one of the best small towns in America. We plan on experiencing "Low Country Cooking" to find out what it's all about. We haven't been to this part of the U.S. yet, so are looking forward to the visit. Most people have flower gardens. I have managed weed plots. If a plant decides it wants to grow in my perennial flower beds I let it grow there—except dandelions. Maybe I should make dandelion wine. My motto is, "There are no weeds, only wildflowers."

Don Henry and Marge Whitley: Amtrak to the Big Apple. We spent five days in NJ and NY, visiting with a granddaughter. One of the main places visited was The Duke Farm, near Somerville, NJ; native vegetation and a large greenhouse full of orchids. It was a beautiful place.
Doug and Drecilla Hatchett: Before we see you at Natural Bridge this fall, Drecilla and I will be taking a trip to a part of this country we haven't seen yet. We will be flying to Seattle in late August, then traveling with a group from here in south central KY down the west coast, then across the lower tier southwestern states. We will be gone 15 days. We’re looking forward to this trip. See you in October! We’ve made our reservations at Natural Bridge State Park for the annual meeting.

Jim and Thelma Haagen: Greetings to all, it seems just like yesterday, but I've been retired now for 2 1/2 years. My bride of 42 years and I have been enjoying retirement. We still live in Hardinsburg. Thelma does substitute teaching at the elementary school where she was employed and tutoring students in our home after school. I have volunteered some for the soils folks and for Calvin Bohannon, who, by the way, is still working. Last winter I started doing a little fur trapping to eliminate an overpopulation of raccoon and beaver that were trying to flood some crop fields. Picture below. This spring, my younger son Jeremy and I went fishing in Alabama and caught a few fish. The largest one was 41 lbs.

Also here is a recipe that I made recently since my blueberry bushes (3) produced about 19 quarts of tasty berries.

LEMON BLUEBERRY BREAD: 1/3 c melted butter, 1 c sugar, 3 tbsp. lemon juice, 2 eggs, 1 1/2 c all-purpose flour, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 c milk, 2 tbsp. grated lemon zest, 1/2 c chopped walnuts optional, 1 c fresh or frozen blueberries

GLAZE: 2 tbsp. lemon juice, 1 tbsp. butter melted, 1 c confectioner's sugar

DIRECTIONS

BREAD: In a mixing bowl, beat together butter, 1 cup sugar, juice and eggs. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; stir into egg mixture alternately with milk. Fold in lemon zest, nuts, and blueberries. Pour batter into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 for 60 to 70 minutes.

GLAZE: Combine all ingredients mix well. Drizzle over bread.

Gene and Hazel Jarvis: I am a member of Fleming County Conservation District Board. I do consulting work as an independent contractor for land owners. I also drive for a community action program. Hazel is doing income taxes. We look forward to attending the meeting in October.

Joel Legris: Right after retiring, we sold our larger farm in Mason County and moved to a tract of land adjoining Brashears Creek in Spencer County. My wife Ann and I enjoy kayaking and have taken advantage of the many streams in the area. We also like being closer to Louisville and friends and family. Currently I work part time as a land-use consultant/manager and volunteer as an environmental educator at the 21st Century Parklands in Jefferson County and the Clarence Miller Outdoor Education Center in Shelby County.

Connie McKinney: Connie is rested after a week-long vacation with family at Topsail Island, a place where they have visited for over 30 years. Topsail (pronounced "topsul") is a 26-mile-long barrier island between Wilmington and Jacksonville, NC. While there they toured the USS Battleship North Carolina, which participated in every major naval offensive in the Pacific during World War II, earning 15 battle stars. It is an authentically restored World War II battleship, a National Historic Landmark and a memorial honoring those who gave their lives in World War II.
Marcia Kelly: My husband Dan and I have gone camping with our 3 dogs a couple of times at Cave Run Lake - Twin Knobs Campground. We really enjoyed it and will heading back down there again when the weather is a little cooler. Both of my daughters have visited us this summer and we will be heading to North Carolina soon to visit my oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandson (for his 1st birthday!). My youngest daughter Kaitlin works for NRCS in New Jersey and has just been selected to be on the NJ State Resource staff as the State Agronomist. She will be starting that position in early September. We are very proud of her and she is really excited to start her new position.

Taylor Morgan: I have a new addition to the family, a great granddaughter, Paislyn Daily, born this past July to my granddaughter Carissa Foley. That makes three great granddaughters.

Linda Rhinehimer: I have been busy this summer. As some of you know, Dea has been going through lung cancer. We were in the hospital 32 days. Found a wonderful doctor at UK Markey Cancer Center. And as of August 14th (our 49th anniversary) Dea is cancer-free. I have been making yellow squash relish, recipe below.

Randal Rock: I have been retired but really changed jobs for almost a year. I am working for a farmer in Shelby County as a consultant for crops. I have about 55 beef cows and grow about 3 acres of sweet sorghum. I forget what day of the week it is most of the time. After 34 years with NRCS/SCS, life is different. I do miss seeing people who I worked with.

Ed Scott: I volunteer with the Life Line Ministry in Northern KY. The ministry is supported by eighteen churches that contribute food and clothing to those in need. They also provide household goods when available. I had surgery on August 15th at the University of Cincinnati. I’m recuperating at home, with the help of my wife Bonnie and my daughter Cheryl, who’s visiting from Florida. Cheryl is a nurse. So glad she’s available to interpret the medical lingo.

Roy Toney: News from Roy’s Corner. I was recently selected to serve as chairman of the FSA County Committee which comprises Anderson, Franklin and Woodford Counties. In addition, I am serving a third term chairmanship of the Anderson County Cattlemen Association. The August tour for this year will be visiting the states of North and South Dakota. These tours have allowed me to travel to all 50 states as well as Canada and Mexico. The most rewarding activity that I am involved in is the mentoring program in the elementary school system. I’m happy to announce that Bill Craddock and his wife Deborah will soon become citizens of Anderson County. Welcome Bill - it’s amazing what grandchildren will cause you to do. Hope to see everyone at the fall gathering

We remember those who have passed since our last newsletter. In Memory: Arlin J. Barton, Russellville, KY June 13, 2014; Thomas P. (Tom) Etherington, Richmond, KY July 2, 2014; Archie B. Gragg, Bowling Green, KY July 28, 2014; Cornell Rhoton, Age 93, Tompkinsville, KY July 6, 2014

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS OCTOBER 25
MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative
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Our July breakfast was on the 8th and was attended by Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Bob Lagossey, and Noreen and John Simon. It was so nice to enjoy the warm weather we are having and catch up on others’ lives. I think it is recharging our souls. We humans are meant to be social animals.

A reminder to all Mainers (especially the new additions): we are still having our 2nd Tuesday of every month 9AM breakfast at The Dysarts truck stop in Hermon/Hampden at the I-95 interchange (mile 180). We have been there for the 16 years since I have been in the Bangor area.

I have added the name of retiree Winston Mahan to our list - hooray! Another live body. This deserves a story. Last Friday Noreen and I were at our afternoon supper at the Eagle’s Nest restaurant in North Brewer. On exiting the place I passed a fellow who looked awfully familiar, but I did not follow up at the time. Well, that night about 3AM I woke up with the name Winston Mahan in my mind. I went to the kitchen and wrote the name down and went back to bed. On Monday I called Winston and asked if he wanted to be on my list of SCS/NRCS retirees. He said OK but indicated that he works varying hours at LL Bean and may not be attending very often, but at least he is on our contact list! Welcome Winston! Winston had left SCS at the State Office and went to work for FmHA before retiring.

Some of you may be wondering how the mini-split I put upstairs in my raised ranch for heating is working in the Air conditioning mode. It is cooling and dehumidifying the whole house quite well, thank you very much. This is the first summer we have been comfortable in our house in June-July-August! Hooray! For the 33 days from June 23, 2014 to July 26, 2014 the mini split used 160.09 kW or 4.8512 kWh/day ($0.86 per day). This is equivalent to a 202-watt bulb running continuously. I put in a separate watt-hour meter for the mini-split so I know exactly how much I am using. On the opposite note the mini-split only heats the upstairs. Heat rises, colder air settles downstairs. These mini-splits are cropping up all around the Bangor, Maine area like weeds. The word is getting out as to how good they are and very reliable and economical. On a side note, my refrigerator uses 3.38 kWh per day or the equivalent of a 141 watt light bulb running continuously.

I visited Art Taylor at his new house, and he is coming along fine. The interior wall framing is all in, and he is roughing out the electrical outlet locations. Art is an amazing carpenter! Art indicates that his superinsulated house stays about 70 degrees even with the doors open in his unfinished home. No heat or AC, just the thermal mass in the 4-inch concrete floor underlain by 4 inches of styrofoam insulation.

August 2014: I got caught up with the Senior Little League World Series and lost track of time from August 10 through August 16. Wow, what great baseball, and the Bangor team was able to keep up with the best from around the world! Bangor was undefeated until the semifinals when it lost to Houston, TX. Texas went on to beat Latin America in the finals. Those other teams were good, so that says something about the Bangor Area baseball quality.

I contacted and got the approval of Susan Watson and Skip Babineau to add their names to the list of retirees who are interested in keeping informed of other retirees and possibly attending breakfasts or other functions we hold. Susan is an early retiree resulting from the RC&D office shutdowns. Sue now has a farm (Midsummer Night’s Meadow Farm) to supplement her income. Congratulations, Sue. You can see her farm on the web at www.uniquemaine farms.com.

Skip Babineau recently retired and indicated that he is in remission from a brain tumor and feeling quite well. God bless you Skip. Skip spent years driving from Easton up to Fort Kent, acting as DC and indicated he does not miss all the driving at all, especially in the winter.

I also heard from Don Collins up in Aroostook. I haven’t heard from Don for many years. Come to find out he had been battling cancer and is a “cancer survivor” and in remission from the cancer and the Crohn’s disease he has been plagued with for many years. So glad to hear Don is healthy and active. Don is very thankful for his renewed health. Don indicated that he has a small consulting business (started in 2005) and is busy (especially in the summer) installing 319-type projects and related type water quality practices. Don indicated he may see us at a breakfast in Bangor “when the ground freezes.”

I heard from Bill Moulton recently, and he indicated he is recovering nicely from his broken leg (during one of our ice storms this winter). He indicated he recently harvested a bunch of hay on his farm with the help of his wife Pat, son, and friends.

Maine retirees met for their Tuesday, 12th of August breakfast. We all had a great time updating each other about family “stuff.” Fun was had by all.

It was good to see Art Dearborn and his wife. Obviously many folks in other states knew Art in his years as state engineer. Norm Kalloch always schedules his annual eye examination for the second Tuesday in August so it was good to see him again this year. Norm and I both go to Dr. Moulton in Bangor who did our cataract surgeries. We are both seeing very well, thank you very much.
Maine retirees' breakfast, left to right, clockwise: Norm Kalloch, Bruce Champeon, Francis Dearborn, Arthur Dearborn, Charlie Boothby and Judy Boothby, and John Simon.

Art Taylor was doing the “river keepers” program this month and could not attend. This time, his group was taking the teachers from Hermon HS down the Penobscot River on an environmental education canoe ride. They use several very large canoes to navigate the river for quite a few miles. Talks are given on various aspects of the ecology of the river and the restoration of salmon after the recent removal of several large dams on the main portion of the river.

As our group of retirees ages, more and more of us are struggling with health issues of various kinds. However, we are a tough bunch and keep plodding forward. It is good for us to get together as often as possible to keep up our spirits. Knowing we are not alone is comforting to many of us. In subtle ways we can sometimes help each other out.

MINNESOTA
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On Wednesday, July 9th, 2014, a small group met for lunch at Pippins in Roseville: Laurie Otte, John Brach, Vic Ruhland, Susan Ploetz, Margy and Micki Gangl, John Handler, and Marlene Mechelke. We haven't see John Brach in a while and it was Laurie Otte's first luncheon. Much spirited conversation and reminiscing!

A while back I met with Norm Kempf, Midwest Regional Vice-President, and received the ARCSE President's Award for Meritorious Service. This award is in appreciation for leadership in membership recruitment and retiree activities as the ARCSE representative. Thanks to Norm for nominating me for this award and to other officers for their consideration. I enjoy keeping in touch with all the great folks we worked with over the years and appreciated getting this award.

Minnesota is short on news this time, but “Old Faithful”, Vic Ruhland, has a few words of interest: (He’s really quite “Young.”)

I enjoyed reading the excellent article on soil quality, “The Roots of Healthy Habitat,” in the January-February 2014 issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer. The importance of reducing soil erosion, an important component for maintaining/improving soil health was described in an easy understanding manner. I couldn’t help but reflect on my learning about soil erosion and conservation from original soil conservationists of our agency. I became familiar with most of them – who they were – while doing my research on the history of soil and water conservation in Minnesota (Through These Eyes The First 70 Years of Soil and Water Conservation in Minnesota – April 2005). They were truly dedicated individuals. They taught me well for my career with the Soil (Natural Resources) Conservation Service.

A statement in the article also reflecting my views deals with the increase of soil erosion in recent years - “. . . soil conservationists worry that the news (reducing soil erosion) won't be so good when USDA's updated figures come out later in 2014.” As I travel through Southern Minnesota primarily to my home area I’ve seen lots of soil erosion. I'm sure those dedicated original soil conservationists would be most discouraged at seeing above normal rainfalls in recent years together with increased row cropping causing the increase of sheet-rill-gully erosion.
MISSOURI

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The annual statewide luncheon of SCS/NRCS retirees is planned for Thursday, September 11, 2014. This year’s meeting will be held in the Columbia Senior Center in Columbia, Missouri.

The Columbia area retirees’ quarterly breakfast was held at the Country Kitchen in Columbia on August 13th. Those attending were: Neil and Louise Randall, John and Carol McCarthy, Jean Herman, Bob Ball, Bob Hummel, Ed and Judy Smith, Frank Miller, Bill Pauls, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Bob and Rosy Herschbach, Clayton Lee and Dave Rastorfer.

Clayton Lee reports that he is in the process of moving to Smithville, MO as soon as he sells the house in Columbia and buys a house in Smithville.

Jerry McElhiney: It has been a good spring-summer for my garden. However, I got tired of pulling weeds and went looking for some excitement at the Butler Airport. Skydiving has been on my bucket list for some time, so I thought why not! After some training with a tandem jumper and hooking up with a camera man I was ready for the Sport Tandem Jump. Sixteen of us boarded a twin-engine King Air and headed for the blue sky.

At 14,000 feet the green jump light came on and we began to file out the door. Our free-fall was 8,000 feet, reaching speeds between 120-130 mph. The final 6,000 feet under the chute was beautiful and a bird’s-eye view of the countryside. Here are a few pictures.
The organization has helpers get me on my feet again. Sure hard on the hair!

John McCarthy: We’ve been spending a lot of time in Peoria the last few months. My mother (95) is dealing with dementia and Carol’s brother (85) is having some of the same issues. Actually there isn’t much we can do for them except to let them know we are there and care.

Dennis Shirk: Hello Folk. We are finally well, Lois with a broken arm and me with a severe sinus infection. We are very dry here in the central part of the state. I have forage in front of livestock but no re-growth behind them. I will be feeding hay within two weeks. We are meeting friends from Kentucky in Illinois for a brief visit. I am actually the featured marathoneer in the 50 States Marathon Club newsletter for the 3rd Quarter. Go figure! I am also busy with the lake happenings/family, Neighborhood Watch Board, Parks Board, and K of C/LIFerunner Pro-LIFE work. That’s always an enjoyable time for us.

Bill Pauls: Marathon season starts the next weekend after our annual retirees’ luncheon. I have three planned: OH, CA, and NM “Run For It!” I’m starting to get my girlish figure back, dropped about 10lbs, need 10 more. I’m actually the featured marathoneer in the 50 States Marathon Club newsletter for the 3rd Quarter. Go figure! I’m also busy with the lake happenings/family, Neighborhood Watch Board, Parks Board, and K of C/LIFerunner Pro-LIFE work. That retirement gig is a hoot. Keep yer head down.

Ed Smith: With plenty of rain the grass has needed more attention this summer and I’ve been on the golf course more this year. I even saw you (Dave) there a couple of times! I also attended a reunion of first cousins, some I hadn’t seen in 30 years. It turned out that four generations showed up. It was a great day.

We continue to spoil our great-grandson, much to his parents’ dismay at times. Will spend this Wednesday through Sunday attending a Southern Gospel Singing Convention at Lebanon, MO, staying at Bennett Springs State Park in the lodge. Next on the agenda is our annual trip to the mountains of the lovely state of Colorado. We plan to meet my “baby sister” and husband from Yuma, AZ during part of this time. Then we will need to start preparing for our 12th trip to FL for a few months. That’s always an enjoyable time for us.

Lane Thurman: I have been down on the lake for a few days, but had to go home because I got food poisoning, am now over it and will be going back today or tomorrow, but the fishing is not worth going back for. Just got to fish one evening late, and didn’t even get a good bite. They are deep right now and really hard to catch, at least for me anyway. We will be heading south to Louisiana for one of grandson’s La. Tech graduation. This will be the first of the third generation graduating from La. Tech. I was the first, then three of my sons—now one of the grandparents. Maybe we are starting a tradition here. Stay cool and catch a lot of fish when you can. They don’t bite all the time.

Bob Ball: Lenore and I visited our daughter, Laura, and husband, Chris, in Orlando in May, stopping to see the Atlanta Aquarium along the way. While in Florida we visited with Tom Sommer (Sarasota) and Don Butz (Tampa). They are both retired from the NRCS national office. Tom, Don and I were area conservationists in Ohio a long time ago! We flew to Seattle to attend a family memorial service. While there, a family member guided us to several wonderful natural attractions in that part of the State of Washington. I have lots of digital photos from that trip and would gladly share if you are contemplating a visit to that area. We’ve made a few trips to our farm in Ohio and will be headed there again soon. We hosted the spring meeting of the Ohio Chapter Walnut Council in May and talked with a busload of grassland farmers from Ohio in July about management intensive grazing. We purchased a weed wiper from Grassworks, Inc. here in Missouri, and this group of easterners was not too familiar with using it on pastures. Later in July we attended the American Tree Farm Conference in Pittsburg. Currently, I’m working with our consulting forester in planning a timber harvest during 2015, and networking with the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council about hosting the national meeting in the St. Charles area in June 2015. Laura and Chris will be coming to the Missouri vs. University of Central Florida game in Columbia September 13. Both teams’ colors are black and gold, so cheering could be confusing!

Mike Blaine: We enjoyed the Sally Mountain Bluegrass Festival in July. It rained the last two days, and some of the big bus-type campers had quite a time getting out. The evening that Daily and Vincent were there was the largest attendance that they ever had in 28 years. I am still taking out old fence rows on the farm that have grown up with lots of Cedar trees. Also I’ve had several bouts with poison ivy from that work. I sure have enjoyed the cooler summer. Much better to work outside!

Lyle Noblitt: It’s been a busy spring and summer. I attended Masters Golf tournament on Friday, then stayed in Atlanta and played Bears Best golf course, the trip sponsored by Missouri State Alumni. Horton Smith, the first Master winner in 1934, attended SMS, now Missouri State. Eight couples made our golf trek to Springfield and played four courses. We had a week’s vacation in California and visited Pebble Beach. Didn’t get to play. Four couples made our regular golf trip to Branson and played three courses there. We are looking forward to a great fall and more golf.

News from Jess and Phyllis Apple in Indian County (Muskogee, OK): Fall calves are arriving, grass is green, growing strong, and the 1st cutting of hay was awesome! We had our 4th great-grandchild in K.C., MO, about 2 months ago and he is a keeper! We recently found out that there will be another addition from the Nashville, TN area arriving in March, 2015. Are we blessed or what? Stay healthy, be happy, and keep smiling. It’s the NRCS/SCS (retirees) way, you know!

Peggy Fricke: Most of my summer was spent staying with the grandkids in South Missouri—lots of ballgames during June and July. Both grandkids’ teams were undefeated this year and both took 1st place in their final tournaments. After that I was very fortunate to go to Colorado to spend eight days with my cousin Patty, who is fighting cancer, and some of her family. We laughed a lot, and we sat out on the deck every morning and most evenings; took sunrise, sunset, hummingbird and chipmunk pictures almost every day; talked endlessly and sat quietly; explored; hiked; went tubing down snow hill (found out I wasn’t too old); saw elk, deer, moose, magpies, marmots and alpacas (ranch); sat around a fire pit until well after dark and roasted hot
dogs/marshmallows; took hundreds of pictures of landscapes, flowers, animals and each other; drove up to an old, abandoned train trestle, through canyons and up mountains; stood on the continental divide; walked in the snow on the mountains; picked up rocks; shopped and—then there was kayaking, the Alpine Slide, bike riding and horseback riding by the younger ones. But, most of all, we made memories that I will look back on and cherish for the rest of my life. Back from there and it was three days with the grandkids at Lake of the Ozarks before starting back to school. We hit the miniature golf courses, go-carts, old time pictures, the pools and ended the three days with shopping for school supplies and a ride through Fantastic Caverns. Now for some down time and catching up on the home front. Next year, Alaska?

**Laura Cowart:** Retirement? Really? Enjoying every minute, obviously! I have been to Brazil, a bucket list item for me. I was there for 10 days, part fun and part building a church in one of the slum areas of Fortaleza. A family friend has taken a group there for more than 20 years, and it was one item on my bucket list that I wanted to accomplish. I did enjoy a few days in Carnival City-Rio seeing all the famous sights of Rio and enjoying the beaches. **Walter** and I made a trip to South Dakota last September and got in on the last day, the 30th before the government shutdown! We got lucky but many visitors did not. We also included travels through Custer State Park and visiting Chief Crazy Horse Monument and museum. It will be 10 years before it’s completed—it is huge! We left early to beat an early blizzard that left many of the members of our group stranded for a week with no power in the lodge where we stayed. We came back to 82 degrees in Missouri. Go figure! Walter completed a bucket list item in February as we both traveled to New York with “The Messiah Project,” a local choral group that was asked to participate in a celebration of Sewanee Press’ 75th year of printing choral music. He sang on the stage at Carnegie Hall on Monday, February 17th. We enjoyed New York even though the weather wasn't great but a great place to spend a Valentine's Day, which we did with a wonderful but expensive meal along with a play, "Beautiful - The Carole King Story," fantastic!

Walter and I are headed to Orlando, FL on the 22nd to attend the National convention of National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) as members of our local chapter. We are both delegates as I am President of the local chapter and Walter is Legislative Chair. There are big changes ahead for NARFE and if you are not a member, I encourage you to join as it is the only national organization in DC that solely looks out for you! We are extending our trip to include Key West, another bucket list item I get to check off my list. Hopefully the hurricanes will stay away during our Florida visit. We are staying busy, as you can see, with traveling and of course, enjoying our five grandchildren, ages 6, 4, 2, 19 months and 18 months. They can be a handful but we love it. Looking forward to the college football season as I watch Alabama Crimson Tide roll!!

**MONTANA**

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative  
**Email:** inca@3rivers.net

Gordon Decker Report: I've missed the last few breakfasts. We spent a few days at the Family Ranch in Eastern MT the first week end in August. Replaced the hail-broken window, trimmed up the place and had fun with my sister, husband and grand-niece. She got some pickup and ATV driving lessons and practice. The country is still kinda green but getting very dry. The hay crop is less than half of normal because of the hail damage in June. Otherwise, we have just been tending the flower and vegetable gardens, using lots of water, but filling the freezer and pantry with garden goodies.

James Johnson Report: On the first Friday in August, Joan and I spent a delightful evening with Roman Statz and his grandson when they stopped in Bozeman on their return trip to Wisconsin, after spending a week in Yellowstone National Park. More than 50 years ago we worked together in Janesville, WI, where Roman was the District Conservationist and I was getting started as a Soil Conservationist. We had a very enjoyable Friday evening in Bozeman, going out to dinner together and then taking in the first night of the Bozeman Stampede rodeo. It was great to spend a few hours together and share some memories of our time with SCS and the people we worked with in Wisconsin during the early 1960s. Roman and his wife Bea now live in Baraboo and are very active in Wisconsin's ARCSE activities.

Scott Hoag Jr. Report: Scott and Nancy traveled to Ashton, ID to help with a Habitat for Humanity house. The team sided the house and installed the fascia wrap. Dad, Mom and three kids will have a clean, safe home when they move in this fall. Nancy continues to write. She sold three articles this past month. In September they will travel to Port Townsend, WA for a HfH build and then spend time with daughter and granddaughters on Bainbridge Is.

Gooby Ranch Report: Last fall Mary Ann went to a horse sale where they were selling Rocky Mountain horses. They ran one in that had never been touched by humans. No one would bid on it. Mary Ann felt sorry for the owner and made a real low bid just to get the bid going. Five seconds later she owned her new horse. What a bummer.

We hauled the horse home. Then Mary Ann decided she would break the horse and see if it could gait. After she ground-worked the horse using all the big time horse trainers’ techniques, she got on the horse. After a half hour riding her in the round pen, the horse hadn’t bucked, so I untied Mary Ann’s feet and removed the bungee cords I had tied her to the saddle with. That was just a safety precaution. The horse couldn’t have bucked her off even it wanted to. In the process of riding the horse it showed it could gait. Mary Ann was one happy dude.

After a few days of round-penning, Mary Ann was riding the horse around the place and it was gaiting great. So off to the hills we went to see if the horse could handle riding in the mountains, crossing creeks, jumping logs and going up and down steep hills. I took the lead for the ride and the horse did great. The next ride out in the hills Mary Ann took her horse in front and it did super. The only problem was is that my horse doesn’t gait and my horse had to trot all day long. My behind was
sore for a week. The next ride we went on the same thing happened. That’s when we decided to get another Rocky Mountain horse but I didn’t want to pay any more for it than Mary Ann had paid for hers. We went to a horse ranch where they raise Rocky Mountain horses. They had one they had been trying to sell for the last two years but no takers. We looked at the horse and mentioned everything we could think of that was wrong with the horse. It also had never been touched by humans and it was seven years old. Finally I told the owner how much we would pay her for the horse. The price I offered her was $10 less than Mary Ann paid for her Rocky Mountain horse. After a lot of kicking the ground and growling, she finally said okay as long as we gave it a good home. On way home we stopped at MacDonald’s and bought two burgers. When we got home I still had 8 bucks in my pocket.

Mary Ann started working with the horse and after a couple weeks of round-penning and doing ground work, she rode the horse, and after a few days she got it gaiting. Then she made me get on it. After making a few trips around the arena everything looked good. Mary Ann decided to take the horse to a trainer and have them ride the horse to evaluate it. After the trainer got done he said the horse was very trainable, but she had picked up a lot of bad habits from the one who rode her last. When he found out I had rode the horse last, I overheard him recommend to Mary Ann that she send me to a horse trainer.

Jerry Thompson, retired NRCSer from Wisconsin, was visiting his mother over in Oregon. On his way home he got lost and ended up at our place. I made a deal with him that if he would repair fence for two days, I would take him fishing. He agreed, and on the third day we went fishing and I loaned him one of my secret lures. He caught a fish that weighed about four pounds. Then we headed back to the ranch. Jerry took a picture of his fish and sent it to his mother. His mother loves to fish and she wanted to know what the secret lure was. I had to get Jerry to sign an affidavit that he would not tell his mother what the lure was.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative
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SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on July 16, 2014 and on August 20, 2014. The meetings were called to order by President, Gus Dornbusch.

Steve and Jan Stover traveled to Kansas to help one of Jan’s cousins celebrate a 100th birthday. Gus Dornbusch attended his 60th high school class reunion in Wamego, Kansas. Roger Hammer had been in Valentine to visit with family including his new granddaughter. Norm and Linda Helzer attended the International Kiwanis convention in Japan. They were accompanied by Norm’s daughter, who used to teach in Japan, which made the trip go more smoothly.

Bill and Colleen Hance made their first trip to the British Isles, touring England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Dave Camper spent time in Connecticut with family. One of Dave’s nephews works for ESPN on a contract with NSA, which we all know more about than we did a year ago!

The annual SWCS golf tournament was held on August 22nd. This tournament was long organized by Dave Langemeier to raise money for scholarships. Dave passed away this spring, and the event was named in his honor. A scholarship in Dave Langemeier’s name will be given. Fifty-two golfers participated in the event.

Helen Stewart died on July 10, 2014 at Age 92. She served as a secretary in the Midwest NTC for many years. Helen M. Stewart, age 92, of Lincoln, died July 10, 2014. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Joe Kuenning is presently at Tabitha for physical therapy following surgery. Sylvia Kempf, Chris Chapman and Charline Woodside have all spent time in the hospital in recent weeks. Charline was scheduled to undergo surgery on July 16th to remove stones in her bile duct. Keith Sheets reported on his great grandson who was born with a tumor behind his lung. The little one had surgery and seems to be doing fine.

Norman and Sylvia Kempf attended a friend’s 50th wedding anniversary on July 19th. From there they went on to Minneapolis, MN where they visited their oldest son. Norman left Sylvia there and went on to attend the National SWCS Conference and the national meeting of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. Norman is Vice-President of ARCSE for the Midwest. He also picked up the President’s National Service Award for Marlene Mechelke who was honored for her service to the Minnesota retiree’s group. Upon his return to Minneapolis he presented Marlene with her award.
NEW YORK
Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative
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NY SCS/NRCS Retirees’ Picnic, July 16, 2014

Left to Right: Paul Dodd, Rose Dodd, Fred Gilbert, Keith Reese, Steve Indrick, Tony Esser, Lisa Lindrick, Ellen Luchsinger, Erwin Rice, Mel Lee, Nancy Lee, Paul Ray, Dick Winnett, Gary Lamont, Phil Metzger, Steve Machovec. Not in picture: Mary Gilbert, Gwen Rice, Kathleen Esser, Pam Lamont

Jim Calhoun writes: I have been enjoying retirement and there is no worry about not having anything to do. The problem is to schedule time to get it all done. The first weekend in August, I attended the 50th class reunion of the Class of 1964 from the New York State Ranger School at Wanakena, NY. Of the 66 who graduated, 27 returned; nine others are deceased.

I made 2 two-hour presentations on Model Railroading to an Adult Education class at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, and in September will make one on Soil Conservation. I have put together three different Powerpoints: one on the history of Soil Conservation, one on my years spent in Horseheads, and Cooperstown and one on Columbia County.

After coming back from Florida, I was scheduled to start radiation treatment for prostate cancer and completed the treatments in July--45 days. Have to wait and see the results in a few months.

Bruce Ayers’ wife, Kathy, passed away. She had cystic fibrosis of the pulmonary system. Bruce was bio science technician at the PMC for over 30 years, retiring in September 2007. Bruce’s cancer was in remission up until recently when lumps started appearing again. He is scheduled to have chemotherapy soon in Rochester. His good news is that his daughter got married about three weeks ago.

Nancy Lee attended her 50th high school reunion in August in southern Pennsylvania. It was good to see former classmates that had not attended reunions before.

NORTH DAKOTA
Robert “Bob” Bird, ARCSE Representative
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To continue with the story of Russ Christianson as a POW in WWII. Russ wrote an article for the Jamestown Sun newspaper in May of 1995 about his POW camp liberation towards the end of the war.

Fifty years ago this week, I awoke in a German prison camp at Barth, Germany, Stalag Luft 1. I looked around at my roommate, 23 of them, from all parts of the United States and all walks of life. We were all officers in the Army Air Corps and had all been shot down over Europe. We had something else in common; we were all cold, hungry, dirty, malnourished and miserable. We ate, slept and lived in a room 16 feet by 24 feet. Our bunks were triple decked and took up all the floor space except for narrow aisles, a small coal stove and a table with two benches.

At daybreak they heard loud explosions, assumed to be artillery fire, and they knew the Russian Army was advancing from the East. At morning roll call that morning the German guards hurried through roll call without the usual harassment and were nervous and agitated. The German commandant verified that the Russians were only a day away and his orders were to make a last ditch stand at the prison camp. The compounds ranking American officer announced that they should dig trenches for protection. Problems were no tools and everyone weighed less than 100 pounds and so weak they could barely drag themselves around. They took the wooden bed slats off their bunks to dig in sandy soil with a water table within a couple feet. By evening the camp was criss-crossed with trenches, but with 2,000 men in camp there would have been room for only a fraction of them. They went to bed with real tension in the air, the explosions tapered off and stopped, and there was a real eerie silence. After midnight someone looked out and saw no guard dogs patrolling and no guards in the
towers. Everyone poured out of the barracks and there was absolute pandemonium. Someone fashioned a crude American flag and flew it from a guard tower and all 2,000 sang the National Anthem. Russ was very moved and would never forget that moment.

The next day they found out the German guards had all taken off to head West and surrendered to the American forces and had shot all the guard dogs. About 10 AM a Russian general came into camp in an American jeep. He made a stirring speech in Russian to the whole camp of 10,000 men. Every time he paused they cheered and applauded. The American Camp commander understood Russian and later told them what he said. In the afternoon Russ and a friend went to see the Baltic Ocean about a half mile away. On the beach they saw an unforgettable scene. There was an infant in a baby buggy, a little 5-year old boy, three young women, and a woman in her mid-forties. The grandmother had a P-38 pistol in her hand and all of them had a bullet hole in their head. They were well dressed and they figured they were the family of the Burger meister of Barth. The Russians targeted the Burger meisters as fair game. They reported it and a British chaplain buried them in a common grave on the beach. A rag tag outfit of Russian soldiers poured into their camp with little organization and/or discipline. Some rode horses; some drove horses and wagons; and there were American made trucks and jeeps. They all had a bottle of vodka and insisted you take a drink. Russ noted that most had a submachine gun and when drunk became dangerous. He didn’t think any of them knew where the safety catch was. The local Germans were terrified of them and wanted the Americans to live with them so the Russians would leave them alone. These were the same Germans that spit on them and threw rocks at them on their way to the prison camp.

In their condition they needed food and discovered a warehouse full of Red Cross parcels that the Germans had withheld. A foraging party found a herd of Holstein cattle. Since most were milk cows, Russ the ND farm boy went to work milking and had his first taste of fresh milk since leaving the US and he described it as pure nectar. Some British doctors were afraid of Brucellosis or milk fever so a 24-hour butchering party turned those cows into hamburger. The medics warned them to take it easy on food and everyone got sick. The line at the outdoor latrine grew steadily and it wasn’t unusual for someone to come out and get right back in line.

The U.S. High Command negotiated with the Russians to have the 8th Air Force fly them out in B-17s to Rheims, France, where General Dwight D. Eisenhower had accepted the German surrender a few days before. They were met at the airport by some beautiful Red Cross girls with coffee and doughnuts and he couldn’t resist. That night he got about as sick as he has ever been and it was years before he tried another doughnut.

From Ot Johnson: This link shows photos taken in 1944. Hold and drag your mouse from left to right, and it will transform to the exact same location today.

http://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-slider-master/index.html?ww2-dday

I’d like to thank Kim Christianson for preserving this story of his father, Russ Christianson. I’d also like to acknowledge the Jamestown Sun for publishing his story.

In other news, I just saw in the paper that Herb and Diane Mittelstadt were celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary. John Combs, who worked for the SCS for 30 years, mostly in the Killdeer field office, retired in 1980. After this he became a land surveyor for over 20 years and served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Badlands Professional Land Surveyors for over 15 years. Shortly after moving to Killdeer, an acquaintance insulted John by calling Killdeer a sack town. This motivated John to devote his time to improving the community of Killdeer and Dunn County. A long-time member of the Lion’s Club, he received the Melvin Jones Award for Humanitarian Service in 1997. He was a member of the Rural Life Committee, a Past Commander and 60-year member of the American Legion. He started the Killdeer Area Development Corporation which led to the building of the Killdeer Mall. He worked on the Town Criers Tourism Committee adding a tourism information center and improved road signs for Highway 22 North. He received a tourism award from Governor Schaefer for his work in having it designated a scenic byway. He helped get the Hilltop Home of Comfort built and served on the Board of Directors for many years. The last project he was involved with was the High Plains Cultural Center, which when completed should be a great addition to the area. Bob Vaudrin recently died at Fordville, ND and previously worked for the SCS in Grafton when I was stationed there in the 1970’s. He also worked at Grand Forks for a while. He enjoyed buckskinning and the outdoors. I really enjoyed the time we spent together in Grafton.

The North Dakota Retirees’ Annual Reunion luncheon will be at the Bismarck Elks Lodge at 11:30AM on Thursday, September 18. The Elks noon lunch menu has changed to soup, salad and sandwich for $6.95 from their a-la-carte buffet. Hope to see everyone there.

John Combs, 88, died Sunday, June 29, 2014 at Hilltop Home of Comfort in Killdeer, ND. Robert L. Vaudrin, 67, died Thursday, July 24, 2014 near Fordville, ND. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative
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It seldom rains during the month of July in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. But wouldn’t you know it, on July 23rd, the day of the quarterly lunch, the Portland area experienced a deluge of record-breaking daily rainfall. The previous record high for
Portland was 0.06 inches in 1959. The day of the lunch it rained 0.62 inches. Despite the rain, or perhaps because of it, 26 braved the downpour to attend: Stefanie Aschmann, Keith Cromwell, Kay Denfeld, Gary Formanek, Roy Fox, Tom Fujii, Bobbie Hart, John Hedlund, Greg Johnson, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Jim Marron, Chad McGrath, Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, Joe Sahlfeld, Pat Smith, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Eldena VanderZanden, Dick Verboort, Gail Voge, Ralph Wadleigh, René Walls, Beth Zetter and yours truly, Don Stettler.

Several sent me their regrets. Dick Kulver told me his cancer is back. I assured Dick we would all be cheering for him in his fight. Marsel Tingey said he hated to keep singing the same old song, but he could not come to the lunch. He did ask me to tell all the other old folk, hello. Dave Johnson was busy with visiting family and couldn't come. He went on to tell me he recently had his 80th birthday. Congratulations!

Gary Formanek announced to the attendees that it was his 48th wedding anniversary. Gary told us that he was an hour late for the ceremony held in St. Paul, MN. Finding out the formal wear shirt didn't have buttons took the country boy from Iowa a bit off guard. It took him some time to find cufflinks and studs.

Eldena VanderZanden told the group that she attended Ken Krug's memorial service in Torrington, WY. Ken, a one-time wildlife specialist at the West National Technical Center, passed away at his home in Rapid City, SD on March 3, 2014. Eldena said the service was well-attended, mentioning that one of Ken's college professors was present.

Greg Johnson, leader for the NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change team at the West National Technical Support Center, gave us an update on the ongoing funding and staffing challenges the agency is facing. He also mentioned several air quality efforts, one being the funds funneled through NRCS from the 2008 Farm Bill to cost-share with farmers in replacing older and most polluting combustion engine tractors. It is a very popular program.

Recently I encountered Tom Perkins and his family at the Hillsboro Costco. They were dining in style at the food court on those wonderful $1.50 hotdogs. Tom told me that soon he and his family will be moving to Hawaii. Aloha!
The fall quarter lunch will be held at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory on October 22nd. Watch your email inbox for details.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

*Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative*

*Email: wbowers@comcast.net*

Please circle September 15th on your calendar for the PA Retirees’ annual outing, this year to the McKeever Environmental Center, located in Sandy Creek Watershed, Mercer County! **Harvey Pinkerton** and committee are planning a great event with lots to see and hear. It will be our first trip to northwest PA in quite a few years, so we expect to see all you northwest folks.

**Annual meeting Host, Harvey Pinkerton**, invites all to come to the great Northwest Territory for the trip of your lifetime, where the deer and the antelope (elk) play. Come early and stay late. Trips are planned to Benezette (Elk County and the new Elk Visitors Center), Grove City Outlets, the new Wendell August Flagship Store, Volant (antique district), Mercer County’s only winery – “The Wilhelm Winery,” and much more.

Begin the adventure **Sunday evening** at the **McKeever Center**, a “show and tell” session with **Bill Bowers**, showing some of the 80 flood control dams across the state, topping it off with a wine and cheese fest (local wine, local cheese.)

Monday, registration, coffee, donuts at the center between 9–9:30AM. Then **Fran Bires**, Director of the McKeever Environmental Learning Center, www.mckeever.org, along with surprise guests, will present a synopsis and a tour of the facilities. The annual meeting will be from 11:00-12 noon and lunch in the dining hall. At 1:00PM we will migrate to Goddard State Park where **Bill Wasser**, Park Manager, will give an overview of the park, along with some more surprise guests. Bill will then lead an excursion on Lake Wilhelm with pontoon boats, showing wildlife in the park, including eagles and ospreys.

The basic registration fee for the Sunday evening and Monday events will be $25.00. If desired, Sunday dinner can be added for a cost of $8.70 and Monday breakfast for $6.15. For those coming a distance and not wanting to travel the 15-20 miles from Grove City, Franklin, Mercer or Meadville, the center can provide full accommodations in their adult retreat houses. The only item you provide is your favorite pillow. The full cost for lodging, meals, pontoon boat will be $74.00 per person. The Retreat Center can only accommodate 20 people, two per room, single beds. It will be first come, first served. With these rooms, you will be in the center of all activities and not have to travel. There are two fully handicapped rooms, and each of the 10 rooms has its own bath accommodations. Other accommodations within 15-20 miles include the Best Western and Comfort Inns at Grove City and Mercer. Check www.bestwestern.com and www.comfortinn.com for more information and rates. Two campgrounds are in the vicinity for campers.

We want to welcome three recent PA NRCS retirees: **Donna Via**, State Office; **Bill Weaver**, Indiana FO; and **Lou Pearce**, Bedford FO. Welcome to the world of retirement and especially to the PA Retirees’ group! Another retirement to note is that of **Lenora Jordan**. Lenora spent many years in PA in contracting and finished her career as contracting officer in New Jersey. I understand Lenora has returned to PA to enjoy retirement and be near family. Congratulations to each of you! We hope to see you at our events and read your stories in The PA Bugle.

**Carl DuPolt** sent this: Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures a way of life Pennsylvanian’s cherish and will continue for generations to come. The program is a partnership between all levels of government and non-profit organizations, with a common goal of saving prime farmland.

[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)
August 12-14 is Ag Progress Days on Penn State’s Ag Research Farms at Rock Springs, just west of State College on Rte. 45. August 12th is Alumni Day, and the 13th is government/industry day. No better place to experience the latest in agriculture and meet a lot of old friends.

A dual retiree party and picnic was held for Joel Myers and Barry Isaacs on Joel’s farm in Spring Mills, Centre County. Over 30 retirees and spouses joined in celebrating their newly gained “freedom.”

From Bill and Mary Ann Bowers. When spring finally arrived, Bill was busy with the garden, yard and his master gardener activities. He reports the sugar peas, lettuce and spinach are plentiful, cucumbers and zucchini are growing, peach branches are hanging full, the blueberries are netted (we don’t share with the birds), and the deer are eating the apple trees (and little apples). In March we visited daughter Amy in Corpus Christi, TX. Mary Ann is keeping busy in her new kitchen. We have a vacation planned for Lake Placid in August. Life is good!

John Akers says it was a long and cold winter and cool spring, so just really getting out and doing all the jobs around the house and yard that I thought would have been done by now. Ann and I did take a day trip with the Fulton Co. Historical Society to Winchester, VA in May. We got to see the Natural History Museum which had a lot of early history and Civil War events that took place there. In addition, we toured the Patsy Cline house. She grew up in Winchester. Ann and our youngest daughter Janice spent a hot week at Ocean City, MD enjoying the ocean here in June. I went that week to see my son Jerry, who lives at Big Island, VA about 20 miles north of Lynchburg. We took a day-trip to see the Cyrus McCormick museum on the farm where he perfected the reaper to cut grain. One day we went to the Appomattox battlefield where Generals Grant and Lee ended the Civil War.

Larry Staley writes: I haven't written for so long because my routine remains pretty much the same. I continue to spend my winters in Stuart, FL and my summers somewhere north of the Mason-Dixon line. My default location is in Butlerville, OH, where I am the Maintenance Mgr. for a not-for-profit org. that trains dogs for handicapped persons. Then I leave for Dallas, PA to house sit for my daughter and her three dogs (one in diapers) while she and her husband tour Ireland. What we won’t do for our kids! Later in the fall I plan to visit Pittsburgh, PA for my 65th High School Class reunion and then out through the Dakotas on my way to Oregon for a repast with another daughter and her family. While in South Dakota, I will get my driver’s license renewed for another 5 yrs. (a residual left over from my full-time RVing days). I still retain my SD residency. I will return from OR by way of Terre Haute, IN for Thanksgiving with my stepdaughter and her extended family, usually about 45 in attendance. I begged off last year because of an early winter, but don’t think that excuse will fly this year. Then on back to FL and the balmy breezes off of the intercostal waterway.

Don and Shirley Lindsey have been busy lately celebrating their 60th anniversary. Enjoying hearing from old friends and collecting their comments for our "Memory Album". If anyone wants to contribute any remarks, just send to shirleylindsey580@gmail.com

From Bill Brannigan: On July 8th, I turn 85 and on the 10th my wife, Robin and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. On 4 July, we will be visited by our granddaughter, who we do not see very often because she lives in Utah. She will bring her daughter (a great granddaughter, age 18) who we have never met. Those two will be accompanied by our grandson, also from Utah, and his year-old son (great grandson) who we will be seeing for the first time. Altogether, we have four great-grand kids. Needless to say, we are very excited. After that excitement, I will be getting a knee replacement on 16 July. I should need the rest of the month to rest. And congratulations to Bill as he is now an ARCSE Senior Conservationist.

Bob Heidecker writes: Carole and I have been in a struggle since March 4th of last year when Carole had a hemorrhagic stroke which affected her right side and ability to speak. This happened in Florida, so I had to stay there until June 1st of last year when I moved her back to PA. We have been in and out of many facilities trying to get her stabilized. Recently I moved her home and I am attempting to care for her. With the Lord’s help she is making improvements. She gets home-care nursing and therapy twice per week. She would like to hear from her friends. She can read cards and receive visitors.

Alan and Judy Wood went with the Penn State Alumni to Australia and New Zealand in February. Judy even bungee-jumped! Judy went back (for her 6th time) to Ethiopia to do training on hygiene. Alan is headed to Tanzania in September, so will miss the annual meeting/picnic.

Nevin and Judy Ulery have been busy recently as they visit Judy's 99-year old mother in a nursing home in Greensburg. Nevin has also kept busy working with the Hands of the Carpenter program through their church as they build ramps for handicapped folks, repair roofs, paint and make minor repairs for the elderly members of the community. They also recently sold their camper and Nevin has his garden producing well at this time. In their spare time they took a land tour and a cruise to Alaska starting in Fairbanks and ending in Vancouver. Alaska is very large and very beautiful, as is Mt. McKinley. Their daughter Amy and husband Mike met them at the ship and took them to Oak Harbor, WA where they spent the Memorial Day weekend before flying home from Seattle. They plan to return to WA in July for their granddaughter Kate's wedding.

On a sad note Judy's 74-year old brother Joe was killed in February by a drunken driver at four o'clock in the afternoon while he was plowing snow for a neighbor. Nevin and Judy attended the funeral in Eau Clair, WI.

Another great April day for seeing wildlife on the Don McCandless farm. Shirley's two nephews, Mark and Vernon, came at 5AM to go wild turkey hunting. The spring gobbler season opened here in PA on Saturday. I had the John Deere UTV Gator...
ready when they arrived and we were on our hunting spots by 5:30AM. At 5:45 five deer came running by me at about 25 yards distance. Not hearing any gobblers, I decided to go back south and get in my hunting blind in our field. On the way back out I saw five deer running east in our field. At 6:43 there was a shot down in area where Mark was. Turns out that was Jake. A long beard came by his decoy, and he shot the long beard. He figures it was a three-year old tom. At 7:15 I notice movement in the 16-year-old spruce wildlife area, and it looked like a large cat. It routed two grouse that flew east. In a few minutes the animal came back and looked at my decoy. I got a good look at it this time, and it was a large bobcat. In a half hour period it came by me two more times. In the past fifteen years this makes the fourth bobcat I have seen on our farm. The 85 acres of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program land holds a lot of mice, and I think this makes a good feeding area for the bobcats. Now another unusual thing happen—the grouse that the bobcat routed earlier came flying back and one landed on top of my hunting blind.

Donald McCandless thought you might like to hear what an 81-year-old farmer wears for a day’s (few hours) work on the farm.

1. Bib overalls—wore them for eight years at elementary one-room McCandless school on corner of farm in 1940s. Still my favorite work pants
2. Wide brim hat with skirt down the back for protection from sun. Recently had skin cancer removed from right side of face.
3. Ear protection muffs—have lost most of my hearing and now use $5000 hearing-aides when not working outside or hunting.
4. Protective eye wear.
5. Canister respiratory for dust and mold protection.
6. Snake proof leggings—recently saw a possible copperhead snake on farm plus also for deer ticks. Have made several trips to ER for tick removal. Missed one July, 2013 and contacted Lyme disease.
7. Gloves
8. Multipurpose knife on my left side. Always carry a knife for many uses.
9. Cell phone in upper bib pocket to call 911. Have made several trips to ER for dumb farm accidents.

Hope you enjoyed this information. Be safe, not sorry.

I received a note from Pat Cecil in TX that she had sold her home and was moving. She gave me a temporary e-mail address but said nothing as to where she is going. I know we will hear from her soon, right, Pat?

Carl Dupoldt sent the following item which is all new information to me. “Fisher Cat (A critter that looks like a small groundhog) in the last 20 years has made a substantial comeback in Pennsylvania after having been killed off in large part by deforestation during the 19th century. By the early 20th century, the fisher was gone from the state. Over time, some of the forests grew back, and from 1994 to 1998, the state imported about 190 fishers and released them mostly in the north central region. Except for the far southeast part of the state, fishers are now throughout Pennsylvania, including Berks County and possibly upper Bucks.

Editor needed for the PA Bugle
After almost 20 years of editing “The PA BUGLE,” it is time to step down. It is wonderful as it allows one to keep in touch with those we shared a portion of our life. Technology has passed me by but it has been a joy hearing about and being able to share that information. In plain English, Fred Bubb is stepping down as editor as of the annual meeting. Willing to do a fun thing in your retirement? Contact Bill Bowers (wbowers@comcast.com) or Fred Bubb (fredbubb@aol.com).

Norina Barber, 91, died on April 28th at the Forest Park Nursing Home in Carlisle. She retired as a clerk in the SCS State Office in 1988. Private services and burial were held by the family in the East Harrisburg Cemetery.
Geneva Gingrich, 90, passed away at her home on May 9th. She served as Area Clerk in the Lebanon Area Office. She was a member of Palmyra First United Methodist Church, and past-president of the Palmyra and Lebanon County Women's Club.

A memorial service was held for Wayne Ray, former Susquehanna County DC and Endless Mountains RC&D Coordinator, on August 9th at the Methodist Church in Kingsley, PA. Wayne died March 15th of a heart attack as he was leaving a cruise ship. Phyllis asks that those planning to attend the lunch after the service make a reservation at suscon2@epix.net or call 607-372-0205.

Melvin Engle, 74, Ashland, died January 7th. Mel was a soil conservation technician in Berks County for 20 years. He retired in 2004. He was also a Little League coach, an avid coon hunter, member of the American Kennel Club and was a bench show judge for hounds for 20 years.

Frank Resides reported that the July 19th meeting of the Southeastern PA Retirees' Group met for lunch at Roger's in West Chester. Those present: Bob and Nancy Escheman, Carolyn Gehlen, Tom and Joyce livari, Jean Kirkaldie, and Frank and Jane Resides. As usual, we had a great time discussing memorable events from our working days, where some of our former colleagues are now and our aches and pains.

Our ranks have been depleted by people moving away, by illness, disabilities and even death. We now have people in DE, FL, MT, NJ, NC, SC, TX, and VA and maybe some other places. Sadly, I must report that the Eschemans are moving to North Carolina, even farther away.

Art Holland wrote that he and his son took in NC and WV to see some of the water resources projects he had worked on. I visit some of the ones I worked on occasionally. We find it very gratifying to see that these projects are usually well maintained and are still serving the intended purposes. Art sends his regards to all. Carl Dupoldt said he is still adjusting to his prosthesis. We wish Carl well. Like Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders, from that raid of April 18, 1942, on Tokyo and 4 other Japanese cities, we will continue to meet as long as we have people to meet with. Our next meeting at Roger's will be in November or December of this year.

Frank and Jane Resides made a trip to some National Parks of the West.

They stayed at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, took the Going to the Sun Road to Logan Pass at Glacier Park, and visited the Mammoth Hot Springs at Yellowstone, where they saw hot springs, mud pots, geysers, canyons, waterfalls, cascades, calderas, and bison-bison in the woods, the fields and on the roads! They also saw Grand Teton National Park, where they met Scott and Nancy Hoag and enjoyed a great time and a gourmet dinner at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar. The next morning they rafted 13 miles on the Snake River and saw Mule deer, pelicans, egrets, a beaver, ospreys and lots of Bald eagles. After a stop at Salt Lake City's Mormon Complex, they boarded the California Zephyr for Sacramento and arrived in San Francisco on August 7th where they stayed in the Fishermen's Warf area. The next day they had a 4-hour bus tour of the city and a cruise on San Francisco Bay.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

Email: landmgmtinc@wctel.net

Bill Melvin retired. He wrote: I started to work with SCS in 1959 after graduating from college at Southern Illinois University in 1951. I spent 2 years active duty in the Army and then 6 years Army Reserve. My first job with USDA was as a WAE in Harrisburg, IL. I was accepted as a Conservation Trainee with SCS in 1959 and located at Shelbyville, IL.
The SCS biologist position was announced at Champaign, Illinois and I was accepted in the early 1960s. A few years later West Virginia announced a biologist position opening. I applied and was accepted to fill that position at Morgantown, West Virginia. This tour of duty was a long way from my home and aging parents in Southern Illinois.

A position on the Tennessee Watershed and River Basin staff was announced at Nashville. Again I applied and was accepted and about a year later I was placed in the State Biologist position. After a few years in Tennessee, South Carolina announced that their biologist was retiring. I applied and was accepted to fill that position in 1976. I retired from SCS in Columbia, SC in 1986.

Three years later I started to work with the Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District and the Board asked me to be their District Manager. I left this position in October 2013 and took a temporary position on the County Department of Public Works staff in the Stormwater Division and retired March 2014.

I have been given several awards, for which I am very grateful for the recognition: 1993, Conservation Award from the Woodmen of The World; 2001, National Conservation District Employee Professional; 2008, Conservation Technical Award, SC Soil and Water Conservation Society; 2012, NACD, Southeast Region, inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame; 2013, Distinguished Service Award, the SC Aquatic Plant Management Society.

I really miss my work with the pond owners' problems in Lexington County SWCD.

TEXAS
Arnold King, ARCSE Representative
Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

The August 2014 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00AM on Friday, August 15, 2014, at St. Ann’s Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, TX. Refreshments will be furnished by Bill Kuenstler and Dennis Gaster. Marie Garsjo will present a program on a recent trip to Washington State.

Marie Garsjo presided over the July business meeting. Nineteen people were present for the July 18th meeting: Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Barbara Gillum, Joyce Petty, Don Kapalka, Wes Fuchs, Harland Dietz, Anita Plummer, Joe Nichols, Arnold King, Marie Garsjo, Dave Drennan, Bernie Owen, Douglas Seibel, Dennis Erinakes, and Lovell and Merl Glasscock.

Dave Drennan reported that he and his wife have a trip planned to Jackson Hole, WY. Planning has also begun for his father-son annual sports trip, possibly to North Carolina in the fall.

Marie Garsjo completed the edit of a 198-page geology publication. Merl and Lovell Glasscock are back to their routine after their lodger left this month. They recently attended a funeral in Post, TX.

Doug Seibel will be going in for a heart procedure on July 22nd. Others in our group have also been through it. His wife was recently hospitalized for nine days. Bernie Owen reported that Frank Richardson is in Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth where they are contemplating a heart procedure that may be performed in Dallas. Bernie also talked to DeWayne Williams, and he said that he and Freddie will try to attend the meeting next month. Bernie will be celebrating his 75th birthday on July 28th and he has been attending pre-diabetic classes as part of a 16-week course. He is reading food labels more closely. He is planning a trip to his high-school reunion in late August.

Harland Dietz mentioned that his youngest granddaughter got married recently. Joe Nichols is still cooking for the homeless through his church.

Elaine Davis and Billy Don have been attending family reunions and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They had planned to take an Alaskan cruise, but then decided not to. Not to worry though, because Elaine still got her “ice” in the form of a beautiful ring.

Barbara Gillum’s mother is 94 years old and recently broke a bone in her neck. She is in re-hab and is determined to continue living in her house.

Anita Plummer’s daughter and son-in-law helped her with a garage sale. Anita continues to send out cards to our members as needed. Thanks Anita. Wes Fuchs enjoys working on genealogy and has traced his family back to 1848. However, he has recently renewed contact with a relative in Romania, and now the line can be traced back to 1399!

Don Kapalka is excited about his son’s upcoming wedding in October and has been helping with the planning. Dennis Gaster reported that his third grandchild, Samantha Marie Gaster, was born on July 6, 2014. July 6th would have been his father’s 100th birthday. Dennis Erinakes continues his work on groundwater modeling of the Trinity Aquifer. He noted that recharge of the aquifer is almost nil.

Dick and Marjorie Folsche have new e-mail addresses: dfolsche@outlook.com, mfolsche@outlook.com. Pat and Paul Larson wrote that their email address has also changed: pflarson@outlook.com. I do believe that Bernie is being very honored on his birthday by his family. Tell him we extend our best wishes also. Pat has been in rehab for her back and
knees but she is still going strong. Plans to teach another Precept Bible Study this Fall. Wish we could see our kids and
grandkids more, but they are so far off and busy. We are doing well.

The September 2014 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00AM on Friday, September 19, 2014, at St.
Ann's Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd, Burleson, TX. Refreshments will be furnished by Bonnie McKee and
Barbara Gillum. Arnold King presided over the August business meeting.

Nineteen people were present for the August 15th meeting: Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Elaine and Billy Don Davis,
Barbara and Rex Gillum, Joyce Petty, Arnold King, Dave Drennan, Bernie Owen, Douglas Seibel, Bonnie McKee,
Rita and Bill Kuenstler, Barb and Dave Stockbridge, Clyde Goodman, Tom Hodges, and Bernelle Baxley.

Barbara and Rex Gillum are working on their 57th year together, although they did sit at separate tables during the
meeting. Possibly a secret to their long relationship?

Bonnie McKee's son and wife have adopted an 8-year-old grandson whom they have taken care of for three years. All are
very happy.

Bernie Owen reported that Frank Richardson will be going home from rehabilitation after a recent hospital stay. Also
mentioned was the obituary of Richard Wayne Hart, son of John Wayne Hart, a former Cartographic Staff employee.
Richard had a 21-year career as a peace officer. Clyde Goodman reported that Joe Nichols has been very sick with a
virus. We learned a day later that Joe had to be taken to the emergency room to be rehydrated and to be placed on a liquid
diet. Cards would be appreciated.

Douglas Seibel recently underwent a heart procedure (stent) that many of our members have gone through. He did not like
the 6-hour wait, lying on his back after the procedure. He plans to be riding his bicycle soon.

Clyde Goodman also had a heart procedure (stent) and did not like his 14-hour wait lying on his back either. All of us who
have had stents think the removal of the catheter from the groin was not any fun at all. However, we thank God for the
cardiologists who perform this life saving heart plumbing repair.

Bill Kuenstler reported that he is getting in a retirement routine now and that he enjoys catching up on his reading, but
tends to dose off. Naps are one of the great benefits of retired life. Barbara Stockbridge enjoyed their recent trip to the
Grand Canyon and other National Parks. Bernelle Baxley will be taking a trip to Dollywood in the Great Smoky Mountains
of Tennessee. Dave Drennan is still providing taxi service to his grandkids.

Dave Stockbridge will be going to the Texas coast next month for some wade fishing for sea trout, red snapper, black
drum, and with luck maybe a flounder. Dave is involved with the Neighbors Feeding Neighbors program which is helping
needy schoolchildren in the Granbury School District.

Bernie Owen recently celebrated his 75th birthday and received a 50-inch television set. His son from Arizona spent a week
with Bernie and Maxine. Bernie will be attending a high school reunion over the Labor Day weekend. Maxine is back to full
strength after injuries from her fall. Tom Hodge's grandson, a U.S. Marine, recently got married, and Tom said it seems like
only yesterday that the boy was 8 years old.

Arnold and Willeene King will soon be making another trip down to Guadalajara with friends who have a home down
there. Their granddaughter Rachel has moved to Grapevine, and Willeene misses her not being close-by. Arnold attended the
68th annual meeting of the SWCS at Chicago and participated in the Association of Retired Conservation Service
Employees (ARCSE) board meeting held in conjunction with the SWCS meeting. Arnold reported that the National board of
directors is concerned about lack of participation of new retirees.

Dennis Gaster attended a very informative meeting concerning Chesapeake Energy royalty owners. Chesapeake has
overcharged royalty owners $5 billion dollars for costs of compression, transportation, and marketing. The McDonald Law
Firm will try its first cases in Johnson County (Cleburne) in March or April 2015. For additional information see

**VIRGINIA**

**Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative**

Email: kenneth.carter26@verizon.net

From John Moore: My wife and I spent 10 weeks in Iceland and Greenland this summer in the Arctic zone, between 60 and
70 degrees north latitude and were surprised by the mild weather. People are friendly, the countries are clean, almost
crime-free, and speak and write impossible languages: Inuit, Greenlandic, and Icelandic, as well as Danish and English. Did
not encounter many Americans, but others from all over the world were there. We rented a 4x4 Toyota in Iceland and got off
the main "Ring Road" and saw mostly out of the way places. I was amazed at the bizarre volcanic and glacial geologic
features that are just not discussed in the text books. I was very interested in modern ice recession in outlet valley glaciers
that "squirt" out of the much larger ice cap ice sheets. I even did a 3 day solo backpack trip to examine recessional
moraines—the winter debris that piles up at the snout of a valley glacier in winter time. Greenland is totally amazing with
innumerable fjords, outlet valley glaciers, and of course, the awesome inland ice cap. We did a 15 day expedition on foot
and got around various SW parts of Greenland in Zodiak boats; we had wonderful and knowledgeable Inuit guides. Then we flew (no roads) north to Disko Bay (70 degrees N) and hired, twice, small twin engine planes to get a closer look at several active glaciers from 500 ft up. We spent several days viewing by plane, boat, and on foot, a UNESCO World Heritage Site—the world’s most productive valley glacier—an iceberg generator that is absolutely astounding and mind boggling—the icebergs are up to 1 cubic km in volume, and float down a 1000-meter deep fjord for 11 km (which is 7 km wide). The large icebergs get hung up and grounded in shallow water (200 m) at the fjord’s outlet and they back up the smaller bergs. It produced the berg that took out the Titanic. We ate seal, Minky whale, reindeer, lamb, musk oxen, and smoked, dried, salted, or just plain old fresh fish daily. We now have seen the homesteads of Eric the Red, and his son Leif Ericsson in Iceland, Greenland, and Northern Newfoundland. We hope all our retired NRCS friends are doing well, and we enjoy reading the news!

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative
Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Warren and Barbara Lee visited Bill and Grace Richards at their farm near Circleville, OH, in route to the ARCSE meeting in Chicago. They had a great tour of the farm and a wonderful visit. Following their trip to the Midwest, they spent a long weekend with Hershel and Barbara Read and had the opportunity to see Dennie Burns and Lee Frederick.

The annual ARCSE luncheon was again held in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society’s 69th Annual International Conference, this year at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lombard, IL on July 28th. Lee Bridgeman (IL) served as the MC, and ARCSE President Warren Lee (VA) and President-Elect Cecil Currin (MA) talked. Past ARCSE President Mark Berkland (NC) will be the next SWCS President. SWCS Executive Director Jim Gulliford also spoke. There were 27 in attendance. Those from the DC area were Rich Duesterhaus and Jude Mollenhauer, Warren and Barbara Lee, Ron Marlow, and John Peterson, all of VA. States represented at the luncheon were NC (2), MO (1), IL (6), MA (1), VA (6), IN (4), IA (1), NE (1), TX (1), AL (1), WA (2), and TN (1).

A number of ARCSE retirees attended the celebration of the life of Lavona Haas at a memorial service on Friday, August 22nd in Purcellville, VA. Among them were Joe and Terry Haugh, Bob Kohnke (and Bob’s children, Scott and Kaye), Dave and Margie Ralston, Wally and Connie Ochs, Neil and Eleanor Bogner, and John and Blanche Peterson. I hope your representative hasn’t missed any other attendees. Lavona’s only living sibling, Bill Green, and his wife Shirley, along with most of her nieces and nephews, all from Illinois and Indiana, came for the services. And last, but not least, her two beloved grandchildren Lavona and Joe’s daughter Cindy Siler provided some very poignant thoughts and memories of her mother, and many of Lavona’s family were present as were granddaughter Jessie Siler and grandson Tim Siler.

Joe Haas and Blanche Peterson talked of having a walker race as they both were using the same model walker. Thankfully the aisles were too narrow. Joe mentioned to me that the outpouring of phone calls, emails, cards, and letters expressing condolences was awesome, and he asked that I express his gratitude for all of them, most of which noted her kindness and loving nature. Her genuine and loving concern for people she knew was always at the forefront. Even in her delirium, when anyone entered their home, she would order Joe to "go make coffee" for them. She was hospitable to the very end! Joe Haugh reported that Joe Haas is recovering from some pretty serious back surgery, but he is making better progress, albeit a little slower than he would like.

In early July, family and friends gathered together in northern Virginia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of John and Ruth Stierna. Son and granddaughter came from New Zealand, daughter and family from California, siblings and nieces and nephews and families from Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and many others from near and far. It also became an opportunity for a family reunion lasting nearly a week, and it had to include the traditional family golf tournament. Younger brother Ray beat out John for longest drive on the 18th by 14 yards. Fun times were had by all.
Recently three members of the old Program Integration Division, Doug Helms, Maxine Baron and John Peterson met for lunch at National Harbor. The picture below also includes John's wife Blanche (seated). In addition to Maxine, Doug and John, the division included economist John Lowry (now retired in AZ) and secretary Gloria Frazier. The division was in the Planning and Evaluation Deputy Chief area, and the Deputy Chief was Kenneth L Williams. Norm Berg was the SCS Administrator, later to be retitled Chief. PS: There is no period after L in Ken's name. We had at least one other person I know of who did not have a period after their middle initial, and that was MT STC Van K Haderlie. The letter is the middle name by itself.

Elayne Swackhamer reported that many should remember Harry Slawter, who worked as Delaware DC, then transferred to the S.O. before relocating to other states. He retired from his Washington, DC position after an ALS diagnosis and settled in Wisconsin to be near his two daughters.

You may have heard of the "Ice Bucket Challenge."


It is a campaign to create awareness for ALS, and in the past few weeks numerous celebrities have helped it to become a minor phenomenon.

Gene Kenny (Harry's son in-law) said that Harry is a low-key guy, and last week he said he didn't want to take part in the challenge, but we thought it would be a nice opportunity to let Harry and Rhea know that their family and friends are thinking about them.

Our family is going to do the challenge (dump buckets of ice water on our heads), film it, and we are hoping you will consider it, too. Anyone interested in joining us, please videotape yourselves (with a short message for Harry if you like) and email it to me in the next few days. I'm going to make a DVD for him at the end of the week to bring it to their house to watch.

Thank you for your help in this. I think he will really appreciate it. Please pass this on to anyone you think would like to support Harry. Unfortunately, I have an incomplete list of his friends and work colleagues, so if anyone could forward the email I would be grateful.

And now from the past:

Manly Wilder and Coy Garrett at the SCS 50th anniversary celebration, 1985
WASHINGTON  
Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative  
Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

Present at our July luncheon at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: Joe Carmack, Jud Melton, John Gomez, Harry Riehle, and Hans and Kathryn Krauss.

Jud and Karen Melton hosted our second annual summer potluck at their river-front home in Post Falls, ID for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. It was held on August 25th and news and pictures of the event will be in the next newsletter.

Jerry and Phyllis Richard traveled to Colorado in July and on the return trip to Spokane visited with Dick and Betty Porter, and had lunch with John and Bonnie Geter in Fort Collins. They then stayed with Stan and Kathy Hobson in Boise with Paul and Kip Malone joining them for a very pleasant evening of food and friendship. In August they visited their daughter and son-in-law in Ann Arbor, MI and got in some quality fishing time.

WEST VIRGINIA  
Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative  
Email: pegreeseewv@gmail.com

Annual SCS/NRCS Luncheon is scheduled at 11AM on October 16th, 2014 at the Regatta Bar and Grill in the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown. This year’s event will feature a delicious buffet lunch that will cost $12 per person to be paid directly to the Regatta Bar and Grill. Music expert Joe Paull will give a special musical presentation about the life and music of Johnny Cash. In addition to the opportunity to spend time with old friends, we will have a few door prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Parking will be complimentary. Out-of-Towners might want to stay for the Mountaineer football game against the Baylor Bears on October 18th. Tickets are available at www.ticketcity.com. For info contact Jim Clevenger at (304) 599-3533.

Charlotte Friend, Assistant State Conservationist for Outreach and Civil Rights, retired on July 31, 2014.

Angela Greene shared the following: “I married Paul Gragg on July 22, 2014. Never thought I would get married again, but God had a different plan for my life. Right now, I am at a Conservation Employees Training session in Greenville, NC (NC coastal plain). I am one of the instructors for farm pond design training. Then I have a pre-construction meeting on a stream enhancement site in the NC mountains on Monday. I struggle not to work too much. I do enjoy being retired. My next priority is to pack up my apartment and move my stuff to Paul's house (on the west edge of Boone, NC). Life is good for me. Please give my regards to the WV NRCS retirees.”

WISCONSIN  
Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative  
Email: ljenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on June 12th at the Tuscumbia Country Club in Green Lake, WI. Erv Lesczynski and Steve Prissel were the hosts. Thirteen retirees and spouses attended on a beautiful day at the Lodge of Tuscumbia. Some of the retirees golfed in the afternoon after lunch.

The Wisconsin retirees also met on August 14th for lunch at the Minocqua Brewing Company in Minocqua, WI. Ken Lubich was the host. Those attending were Ken and Joanne Lubich, Howard and Sue Gundlach, Kim and Sue Goerg, Dave and Jean Omernik, Greg Rebman and Sue, Wilbur and Gloria Petroisky, Jim Barnes, Gene and Ann Nimmer, John Campbell, Dan Lynch, Dave and Betty Gruber, John and Joanne Baker, Peter Lindgren, Kate Kelly, and Joan Wells. The group had a good time visiting.

The next luncheon is scheduled for October 8th at Fitzgeralds Restaurant, 3112 Parmenter St., Middleton, WI. Jim Enlow will be the host.
Greg Rebman, NRCS State Forester, retired from NRCS on June 3, 2014, after 34 years of service. His retirement party will be on September 6th in Oconto, WI. We hope you can attend and celebrate with him. If you have photos, stories and memories to share, or would like to donate for a gift, please send them to Lori Van Hulle at the state office. If you have questions please call Lori at 608-662-4422 x221.

Clarence Austin passed away at home in Fond du Lac on July 12, 2014. Harry Barnett, 89, of Honeybrook, died on June 1st of this year. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS: We welcome two new Senior Conservationists since the last Newsletter. They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations! The new Senior Conservationists are:

Harold B. Dull   Soldiers Grove, WI
James H. Spitz   Hardy, VA

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE
Marc Safley, Chronicler

Senior Conservationist James H. (Jim) Spitz was born in Rochester, New York. Jim grew up on a “hill farm” on the west side of Keuka Lake in the Finger Lakes region of New York. He attended high school in Hammondsport, NY, during which time he participated in baseball, basketball, and track and field sports. His hobbies included racing a Star Class sailboat on local lakes, in Canada, and other Eastern waters. Upon graduation from high school, he enrolled in Baldwin Wallace University (Berea, Ohio). He graduated in 1953 with an A.B. degree in rural sociology and business. Jim then served in the US Army in Korea and was honorably discharged after two years’ service.

Following discharge from the Army in 1956, Jim took a job as an Investigator with the Civil Service Commission. He held this position for about 16 months, during which time he worked in New York City, Buffalo, Binghamton, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Atlantic City.

A reduction-in-force necessitated a career move, and Jim entered SCS as an Administrative Trainee in Syracuse, NY, in 1957. Following this trainee work he moved to Connecticut where he was a member of the SAO staff for both Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1965 he took an administrative position in Indiana. In 1968 he was selected SAO for Indiana and served in that position until 1977. Jim reports that those were exciting years for SCS in the state, with two watershed planning staffs in addition to all the other programs. He also reported that during those years he developed many close friendships and had some very memorable experiences.

In 1977 Jim accepted the position of Chief of the Budget Branch in SCS National Headquarters. He reports that during his tenure in that job he was able to get the budget management of Conservation Operations moved from his Budget Branch to the Programs Division. Following his work as Chief of the Budget Branch he became a Program Analyst. He held this position until 1984 when he accepted the Departmental position of Special Assistant Deputy Secretary. He retired from that position in September, 1989.

After retirement Jim moved to the Smith Mountain Lake area of Virginia. There, in addition to enjoying boating, fishing, and hunting (for both game and antiques/collectibles), he has remained active in resource conservation. He has been a member and President of the Smith Mountain Lake Association (1992-1998). Other related activities include serving as a member of the Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association 2001-2002 where he served on the steering committee (established by the Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association) that helped establish the Upper Roanoke River Roundtable. He also was chairperson of VLWA’s Lakes and Watersheds Committee. Jim also served on Virginia-Governor-appointed commissions such as the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission. He served on the Steering Committee that developed the initiative and legislative draft that led to creation of the Roanoke Bi-State (Virginia and North Carolina) River Basin Commission. It is very active today with a mix of political and business leaders.

He has remained active in his church including holding leadership positions in it. He has also served since 2001 in various ways with the Scruggs Fire, Rescue, and Dive rescue squad (as an EMT, a fund-raising chairperson, and
Please email Ron Marlow at arcse@cox.net to report recent In Memoriam notices.

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<th>Surname</th>
<th>In Memoriam</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Austin</strong></td>
<td>Clarence &quot;Bobby&quot; Austin (71) passed away on July 12, 2014 at his home in Fond du Lac, WI. His Christian faith and life foundation began at an early age at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Horntown, Virginia. At his passing, he was a member of the Albright United Methodist Church in Milwaukee, WI. Clarence graduated from Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware. He was a very proud veteran of the United States Army. After a tour in Vietnam, he was assigned to various soil and water conservation (Natural Resources Conservation Services) districts in the state of Wisconsin as well as the National office, retiring in 1998 from the Administrative Service Division in Washington, D.C. Clarence was united in Holy Matrimony to Mary Council in Beloit, WI on June 20, 1981. They made their home in Fond du Lac, WI. After retiring, he devoted his years to family, church ministries and educational projects in the Fond du Lac community. Clarence and his good friend, Dr. John Lent, inspired the vision and development of Community Education Opportunities (CEO) to empower children and youth of Fond du Lac with a strong educational foundation. He leaves to cherish great memories: his wife, Mary and his father, Irving Austin. Memorials can be directed to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation – Community Education Opportunity Organization in Clarence’s name. They are at 384 N. Main Street, Suite 4, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.</td>
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<td><strong>Barber</strong></td>
<td>Norina Barber (91) of Harrisburg, PA, passed away on April 28, 2014 at the Forest Park Nursing Home in Carlisle. She will be remembered as a clerk in the Harrisburg SCS State Office, retiring in 1988. She is survived by two brothers and a sister.</td>
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<td><strong>Barnett</strong></td>
<td>Harry Barnett (89) of Honeybrook, PA passed away on June 1, 2014. Harry worked as a Conservation Technician in the Dauphin County field office, when it was located on Locust Lane in Harrisburg. He retired in 1990 and became very active in the Twin Valleys Fire Co. He was Chief of the Fire Police at one time and Chief of the Ambulance Unit at another time. Harry is survived by his wife and three sons.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Branigan</strong></td>
<td>Member and Senior Conservationist William J. Branigan of Mount Jackson, VA passed away on July 30, 2014 from complications (pneumonia) following knee surgery. Bill retired in 1987 as an RC&amp;D Coordinator with the Soil Conservation Service in Maine, having been a District Conservationist in Allentown, Media (Delaware Co), and Meadville, PA. After retiring, he owned and operated a bed and breakfast called the Roaring Lion in Waldoboro, ME for 25 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coffing</strong></td>
<td>Member Charles H. Coffing (72) of Covington, IN, passed away on May 10, 2014 in Fountain County, IN. He first married Ruby Yang who preceded him in death. He later married Faith “Jody” Tanesky on September 1, 1984. She also preceded Charles in death. He is survived by his three children, Rachel Suesann (Nick) Hilweh of Oregon, Angelia K. (Chris) Compton, also of Oregon, and James Frances (Angela) Coffing of Ft. Wayne, IN; a stepson, Dave (Marge) Smith of Ft. Wayne, IN; and ten grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Brianna. Charles served his country by enlisting in the US Army where he was a Green Beret in the Special Forces. He served active duty from 1960-1967 and later retired from the reserve. Charles was a Covington High School Graduate and earned his bachelor’s degree from Purdue University. He worked with the US Department of Agriculture as a certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and was a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Charles was a pilot and had a passion for flying. He was a member of the EAA and enjoyed skydiving. Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Combs</strong></td>
<td>John Combs (88), passed away on June 29, 2014 at Hilltop Home of Comfort in Killdeer, ND. He worked the majority of his SCS career at the Killdeer Field Office. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ferne; daughter, Carolyn Moyer of Colorado Springs, CO; step-daughters Doreen (Dale) Orf of Grassy Butte, ND; Candace (Charlie) Jerke of Florence, MT; step-son, Kenton Nordin of Glendive, MT; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a step-son, two brothers and a sister.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Currier</strong></td>
<td>Dixie Currier, wife of Member and Honorary Senior Conservationist Raymond (Ray) L. Currier, passed away April 19, 2014. They had only recently moved from their home in Ogden, IA to the Eastern Star and Masonic Home in Boone, IA. Ray retired in 1980 as the District Conservationist in Webster City, IA where he had worked most of his career. They had spent winters in Lillian, AL.</td>
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Etherington  

Thomas Paul “Tom” Etherington (92) of Richmond, KY passed away suddenly on July 2, 2014, after arrival at Baptist Health Richmond. Tom was a retired District Conservationist in Richmond, KY with the Soil Conservation Service. After his retirement, he was the caretaker of Million Park of Richmond for many years. Tom was an active member of the St. Mark Roman Catholic Church and a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts, the 4-H organization, and was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus and Association of Retired Federal Employees. Survivors include: his wife, Anna Manning Jones Etherington of Richmond; two sons, Thomas H. Etherington (Kimberely) of Richmond and James L. Etherington (Maria) of Lexington; five daughters, Rebecca “Becky” Etherington and Dotty Eye Etherington Burton, both of Richmond, Carolyn Etherington Hornback (John) of McDonough, Georgia, Patti Etherington and Janet Etherington Short (Bill), both of Richmond. He also leaves 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to St. Mark School, Richmond, KY 40475. Condolences may be expressed at www.orphn.com.

Gish  

Donald L. Gish (86) of Yadkinville, NC, passed away on July 15, 2014. Don retired in July 1983 as Engineering Technician in Yadkinville, NC. He was born in Little Falls, MN. Prior to joining SCS, Don worked for the Army Map Service, Corps of Engineers. He was a veteran of the Korean War where he received three Bronze Stars. Most of Don’s career with SCS was an inspector on several watershed projects including Deep Creek and Muddy Creek. His work locations included Yadkinville, Hendersonville, Marion, Columbus, Lumberton and back to Yadkinville. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Dorothy Martin Gish and his three daughters, Donna Bowman and Linda Gish of Yadkinville, NC and Janet (Norman) Bartlett of Clemmons, NC. He is also survived by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Don was a member of the Yadkinville United Methodist Church and a devoted Christian. He was a member of VFW Post #10346 who provided full military honors at his memorial service.

Gragg  

Archie B. Gragg Jr. (84) of Bowling Green, KY passed away on July 28, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Bessie L. Morgan Gragg; a daughter, Kimberly Botner (Dr. Bryan Botner) of Bowling Green; and four grandchildren. Archie was a member of Eastwood Baptist Church and retired as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in 1991. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. Archie was retired past president of Federal Employees Organization and High School Band Boosters and was a former director of Chamber of Commerce. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Eastwood Baptist Church, 500 Eastwood Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42103.

Haas  

Lavona Belle Haas (82) of Sterling, VA passed away quietly at home on August 16, 2014. She is survived by her husband, ARCS member Joe Haas of Sterling, VA. Joe retired from the Soil Conservation Service as the Deputy Chief for Programs in Washington, D.C. Also surviving are her daughter Cindy Siler of Lovettsville, VA; granddaughter Jessie Siler of Lexington, VA; and grandson Tim Siler of Lovettsville, VA. Memorial contributions may be given to Capital Caring, 2900 Telestar Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042 or the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 7th floor, New York, NY 10001.

Haszel  

Orville Haszel (94) of Waupaca, WI passed away on August 21, 2014 at Park Vista Senior Center in Waupaca. Orville married Elsie Vergauwen on May 28, 1977, who died on January 31, 1988. He attended the one room Krok School in West Kewaunee and graduated from Kewaunee High School in 1937 and from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1950. Orville accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture which he held until retirement in 1985. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from October 1942 to November 1945 as a radar operator and saw combat in the South Pacific. He was a member of St. Mary Magdalene Parish and a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Orville was a very devoted husband to his wife Elsie, and a loving and caring father to her four children. He will be greatly missed by his 12 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren. Orville is survived by one brother, George of Oshkosh, WI and one sister, Ellen Grutz of Beaver Dam, WI. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in memory of Orville for the new chapel of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, 405 Allen Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut 06451.

Higginbotham  

Richard Lee Higginbotham (69) of Hull, GA passed away on August 7, 2014. A native of St. Petersburg, FL, he was the owner and operator of Piedmont Azalea Nursery for 35 years and retired from the USDA NRCS after 31 years of service. He served his country in the US Navy. As a hobby he collected old cars, antiques, especially toys. Survivors include his wife, Wanda Arnold Higginbotham, son and daughter in law, Ricky and Tammy Higginbotham of Colbert and a grandson. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, c/o Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 6012, Albert Lea MN 56007 or Gideons International, P.O. Box 238, Hull, GA 30646.

Lynch  

Lloyd Eldon Lynch (74) of Davis, OK passed away on May 18, 2014 in Norman. He attended school in Jesse through the eighth grade and then attended high school in Stonewall, graduating in 1957. Eldon worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a member of its survey crew and later as an inspector of area flood control lake dams. His career with the USDA began in Ada, then Davis with SCS and then the Ardmore and Sulphur ASCS offices. He retired in 1990. In his younger days, Eldon was an avid bowler, holding a 300 series title in Ft. Smith, AR. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was awarded Top Lot Trapper by the North American Trappers Association. He spent many hours tooling leather, making powder horns and turkey calls. Survivors include his loving wife of 56 years, Joy; two sons, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
McVay  
Reta McVay (86) passed away August 10, 2014 in Fort Myers, FL. She served as secretary for the Ottawa County Conservation District and SCS in Miami, Oklahoma until retirement. She married Earl McVay Aug. 31, 1949. After Earl’s death in 2005, Reta moved to Fort Myers to be with her daughter’s family and enjoy the sun and her citrus trees. She is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the School Backpack Program at First United Methodist Church of Fairland, 122 West Church Ave., Fairland, OK, 74343. Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mrs. McVay's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Messenger  
Keith Glenn Messenger (80) passed away on Aug. 15, 2014 at Hays Medical Center in Hays, KS. Keith graduated from Roxbury High School and attended Kansas State University. He served in the U.S. Army. He served in Dighton from 1958 to 1990 except for a couple of years in Ulysses as the District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring in 1990. He was a member of First Christian Church where he was also a deacon and an elder. He was a charter member of the Dighton Lions Club. Survivors include his wife of 54 years Virginia Messenger, Dighton; son Alan Messenger Guymon, Oklahoma; daughters Diane Barrett, Oberlin and Lisa Moomaw, Dighton; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Memorials will be accepted at First Christian Church or Dighton Lions Club in care of Boomhower Funeral Home. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Pease  
Member and Senior Conservationist Douglas Shelley Pease (84) of Tempe, AZ passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully on June 15, 2014. Born in Jackson, PA, he grew up on a dairy farm, met and married the love of his life, Sophia Andrychuk at Houghton College and graduated from Penn State in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. He voluntarily enlisted in 1952 and served in Battery B, 980th Field Artillery Battalion, 40th Infantry Division in Korea as a Sergeant First Class. After his honorable discharge, Doug entered civil service employment as a soil scientist. For the next 30 years, he advanced his career by obtaining two graduate degrees and moving with his family to New Mexico in 1960 and later to Arizona in 1976. Doug retired in 1986 as the head Soil Scientist of the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Arizona and established his own soil consultation firm. Doug taught geology and physical geography at Grand Canyon University and through the Elderhostel program. He also traveled extensively with Sophia and taught English as a foreign language for several summers in Eger, Hungary and Vilnius, Lithuania. He leaves behind his cherished wife of 62 years, Sophia, children Shelly Woodward (Colleen), David Pease (Lynn) and Stephanie Cox (Mike). In lieu of flowers or gifts, Doug requested donation of Bibles through the Gideons. (https://www.gideons.org/sendtheword/).

Person  
Walton A. Person (85) passed away on May 2, 2014 at St. Gabriel’s Community Care Center, Bismarck, ND. He was the husband of Vi Person, who worked in the SCS/NRCS Administrative Section in the Bismarck State office for many years. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Vi; a daughter Susan (Wallace) Hopkins, Seminole, FL; a son Kerry Person, Shakopee, MN; 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, a sister, 2 brothers-in-law and 2 sisters-in-law.

Reed  
Bettie L. Reed (84) of Winchester, VA passed away on June 9, 2014. Bettie is survived by her husband of 35 years, D.J. Reed who retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1986 as a Real Property Officer in Washington, D.C. She is also survived by a son and a daughter from a previous marriage and two grandchildren.

Rhoton  
Cornell Rhoton (93) of Tompkinsville, KY passed away on July 6, 2014, at his home. His wife of 67 years, Alice Marie (Bean) Rhoton, preceded him in death on March 13, 2013. Cornell spent his life working in agriculture. He was retired from being a soil conservation technician for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He also was a farmer. He served as a Sgt. in the Army Air Force. He was a member of Corinth Church of Christ. Cornell is survived by a daughter, Judy and husband Larry Tim Ross, of Tompkinsville; two sons, Terry Rhoton, of Alvaton, Jeffrey, and wife Windy Rhoton, of Hendersonville, Tenn. He is also survived by six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to Corinth Church of Christ or to American Heart Association.

Shaw  
Evelyn A. Shaw (74) of Hollywood, FL passed away Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at the home of her daughter, Elizabeth Connally. She graduated from Fisher College in Boston, Mass., and the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. Evelyn is survived by her son, Scott; daughter, Elizabeth; son in law, Chris; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert R. Shaw, who retired from NRCS in 1996 as Director of the Conservation Engineering Division. Those who wish, may make a contribution in Evelyn's memory to the Hospice of Palm Beach County, FL; the Alzheimer's Association; or the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer.

Shepherd  
John Watkins Sheperd Jr. (86) passed away July 18, 2014 at his home in Stillwater, OK. He married Anna Hatchell in 1950 at Cordell, OK. They later divorced. John served in the Korean War and then attended Cloud Chief Public Schools, Florida State University and Oklahoma State University. He received an associate’s degree in civil engineering. He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a civil engineer tech from 1960 until 1989. John owned Oklahoma Hoops and scouted girls basketball and softball. He was preceded in death wife Jackie Sheperd. He is survived by a daughter, a step-daughter, a step-son, and eight grandchildren.
Stewart

Helen M. Stewart (92) of Lincoln, NE passed away on July 10, 2014. She served as a secretary for the Soil Conservation Service in the Midwest NTC for many years. Helen was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees, Beta Sigma Phi, and Senior Bowling League. She is survived by: Sister: Alice Spomer, Lincoln; two Nieces, Great Nieces and Nephews. Memorials: Alzheimer's Association or First Presbyterian Church. Condolences may be left @ www.bmlfh.com.

Vaudrin

Robert L. Vaudrin (67) passed away on July 24, 2014 near Fordville, ND. He worked for the SCS in Grafton and Grand Forks, ND. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Stephany, Grafton, ND; his sons, Robert Jr, Fordville, ND; Michael (Diana), Minto, ND; Phillip (Anita), Grand Forks, ND; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren with another expected in November; and two sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, grandson, granddaughter, and a sister.
## ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

**PO Box 7454**

**Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454**

**2014 MEMBER LOCATOR**

**September 1, 2014**

<table>
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