

**President**  
Tom Badger  
17859 South Wanamaker  
Scranton, KS 66537  
(785) 793-2228  
tne6565@satelephone.com

**President-Elect**  
Mark W. Berkland  
1118 Barfield Street  
Daniel Island, SC 29492-7566  
(843) 388-8285  
mberkland@homesc.com

**Immediate Past President**  
Gus Dornbusch  
6521 Everett St.  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402) 483-6312  
ad24734@windstream.net

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Ronald L. Marlow  
ARCSE  
P. O. Box 7454  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454  
(703) 503-9219  
arcse@cox.net

**Regional Vice-Presidents**  
**EAST**  
Cecil B. Currin  
137 Mount Warner Rd.  
Hadley, MA 01035-9668  
(413) 549-5677  
louandcecil@currin.org

**WEST**  
Jerry Richard  
2709 South Post  
Spokane, WA 99203  
(509) 747-5039  
glr52pdr@aol.com

**SOUTH**  
Ida Cuthbertson  
3190 Sandheath  
Sarasota, FL 34235  
(941) 378-2332  
idacuth23@comcast.net

**MIDWEST**  
Norman R. Kempf  
2312 North 80th  
Lincoln, NE 68507-3339  
(402) 464-6390  
nkempf@neb.rr.com

**Historian**  
Jerome C. Hytry  
13133 Cog Hill Way  
Orlando, FL 32828  
(321) 235-5517  
jmhytry@yahoo.com

**Editor**  
Mike Nethery  
P. O. Box 74  
Smithfield, UT 84335-0074  
(435) 563-0605  
EditorMike@digis.net

**Webmaster**  
Owen Lee  
13965 Oleander Ct.  
Woodbridge, VA 22193  
(703) 590-4143  
OWEN66@verizon.net

**Notes From the Potomac**  
Lennie Losh  
5613 Marshfield Dr.  
Westerville, OH 43081  
(614) 657-4026  
lenlosh@aol.com

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Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454  
Website:  
[www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)



# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter For Retired SCS And NRCS Employees

Vol. 38, No. 1

January/February 2011

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

### Lennie Losh

**A "Lame Duck" Session** - Just completed with the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress coming to an end. Major legislative initiatives were accomplished. The compromise tax plan extends reduced tax rates for income, capital gains, and dividends into 2011 and 2012 for all individual taxpayers. It includes one year reduction in Social Security payroll taxes paid by workers, as well as a renewal of benefits for the long-term unemployed for 13 weeks. Other bills passed of significance are the "New Start" nuclear arms treaty with Russia, the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell", and the 9/11 "health bill". The "estate tax" passed will be in effect in 2011. Heirs of people who died in 2010 will have the option of using tax laws in place in 2010 or applying the 2011 law.

**Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP)** - The 2011 plan changes show an average cost increase of premiums to be 7.3% which is the weighted average increase for the total premiums for all enrollees in the FEHBP. Under the Affordable Care Act (health care bill), beginning January 1, 2011, over-the-counter products that are medicines or drugs will not be eligible for reimbursement from health savings accounts, health reimbursement arrangements or health care flexible spending accounts, unless the enrollee has a prescription for that item written by a physician. The only exception is insulin. Changing health care plans require new plan identification cards. These are sent out by the health plan, not by the Office of Personnel Management.

**Changing State Residency** - Some tips to avoid paying income taxes in two states, and upon death, avoid both states claiming estate jurisdiction: Register to vote in the new jurisdiction; file change of address forms in both states (including wills, insurance policies, trusts, etc.); opening and using bank accounts in new location; and registering for new driver's license and license plates in the new state.

**Have a healthful and harmonious 2011.**

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Tom Badger*

Now that the holiday season is over, I hope that everyone has settled back into the normal routine and have recovered. It is my sincerest wish that you had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a happy and prosperous new year.

I have mentioned several times about my maturing or advancing in years, not growing old, and sometimes the challenges it is bringing. For example, my comments for the newsletter are due to the editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the even numbered months for the next issue. So this newsletter is being written in December for the late January or early February delivery to you. The last one was written in October and that was way too early for my mind to be thinking about the holiday season. Hence the belated wishes that I just delivered.

In the last issue, I encouraged members to thoughtfully consider nominating a deserving fellow retiree for the Presidents Outstanding Community Service Award. I want to remind the members that anyone may nominate a candidate for the award. The nomination should be supported by documentation not to exceed two pages and send to the local ARCSE Representative by May 1. The State ARCSE Rep's will send nominations to the Regional Vice-Presidents by May 15. Winners will be selected by June 15 and notified.

Another award, the ARCSE Distinguished Service Award, has the same documentation requirement and deadline dates. Those being nominated for the Distinguished Service Award will be those nominees who have contributed in organizing ARCSE or promoting the growth of the national organization or local association. Work with other groups or associations may be used to support the nomination.

Presentation of both awards will be held at the National Meeting to be held on July 19-20, 2011 in Washington, D.C. It's not too early to start planning to attend this meeting in our Nation's Capitol. I am sure the Washington D.C. retirees and **John Peterson** are planning an event to be remembered.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
MAR/APR 2011  
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 25**

## ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

*Ron Marlow*

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

When you receive word of someone passing with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found through postings at the following website: <http://www.newspapers.com>. An advanced search using Google of the full name of the deceased often gives good results. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search.

In regards to finding obituary information, the following can be most helpful for locating obituaries: 1. The name of the funeral home handling the arrangements since most now have websites where they post the obituary. 2. The name of the local newspaper most likely to carry the obituary. 3. Where neither of 1 or 2 are available the name of the most recent hometown of the deceased.

### ARIZONA

*Glen Johnson, ARCSE Representative*

*Email: [gljoh4@aol.com](mailto:gljoh4@aol.com)*

**Karl Klingelhofer** reports that he is still traveling and recently returned from 16 days in China. He found it extremely interesting. It included 3 days in Beijing and a 6-day cruise on the Yangtze River with a stop at the Three Gorges Dam that had just reached its maximum level. However, no sun for the 1st 12 days was a bit of a shock. Traveling without my dear wife of 60 years is very different but I continue to do so. Also managed to solo in a 65-year old aircraft in Sept. after my flying lessons that started almost a year ago.

### ARKANSAS

*M. J. "Whitey" Spears, ARCSE Representative*

*Email: [mjspears@swbell.net](mailto:mjspears@swbell.net)*

When we send out invitations to our annual meeting, obviously, we hope many will attend. That of course, does not always happen. It is nice that some take the time to at least respond as did several before our annual meeting last fall. **Rick Fielder** sent his regrets and asked for a change of his address. **Marce Sharp** likewise sent his regrets and best wishes. He had heart surgery in late Sept. **Helen Garr** sent best wishes. She could not attend because hubby, **Larry**, was having knee surgery. **Fred Stringer** sent a note of thanks along with his "reservation check", stating he was looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing more stories.

As noted in our last newsletter, **O. D. Chester** has not missed an annual meeting in twenty five years. He says **O. D.** stands for "Old Dandy". (???) He and second wife **Trene** have been wed two years, having spent their honeymoon at top of Mt. Magazine, a very scenic and popular place. **O. D.** sold his

farm and cattle. He says if some one wants to know how to make money farming, they should buy the land cheap, sell it high, and keep the mineral rights. The oil company drilled one "dry hole" on his property, but he is waiting for them to drill a "good well". He also added that **Trene** treats him like a King and he treats her like a Queen. Says she makes him biscuits each morning.

**Charles Flanagan** had great plans for 2010. Says he planned to climb Mt. Everest, paddle up the Nile, and hunt lions and tigers in the Congo, but his bad back had other plans. Pain got the best of him and he submitted to surgery, something he had said he would never do. The surgery was successful and he took therapy, getting ready for deer season "in Arkansas". Have no results on the hunt yet.

## FLORIDA

**Marie Davis, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [mdavis99@gru.net](mailto:mdavis99@gru.net)

Report from **Bob Halstead**: The annual retirees fishing group gathered in October at Captain **Ernie Todd's** fishing lodge located in beautiful Steinhatchee, FL. This event hosted by **Ernie Todd** saw this year's participants enjoy a wonderful week of good fishing and beautiful weather. **Ernie** provided the boat and lodging, **Billy Milliken** did most of the fish catching, **Wes Oneth** provided some good old Oklahoma brew for those who wish to imbibe and lots of Oklahoma State stories. **Bob Halstead's** contribution was several batches of **Sue Halstead's** seven layer cookies. The group missed two of our regulars **Coy Garrett** and **Frank Scudder** this year, but not to worry they were talked about a lot. Enough fish were caught each day to feed the group and **Sue's** cookies lasted until the third day of the trip. Plans were laid for next year's trip and the first order of business was next year **Bob** is to bring more cookies.

## GEORGIA

**George Norris, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [pikfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:pikfarm@bellsouth.net)

Georgia retirees from SCS/NRCS in the Athens area meet quarterly for lunch on the fourth Thursday of the first month of each Quarter. We don't know for sure why that date but we've done it so long that most remember it now. One member of the group always calls us anyway just in case. The group last met at the Pickadilly Cafeteria in Athens on Oct. 28, 2010. **Cecil & Gene Martin, Rick Main, Claudette & Lee Norman, Marge Lucas, Carolyn Adams, Will Tharpe, Linda DiPietro, Kitty Stevens, June Andrews, Norma & Bill White, Bill & Rue Player, Simmie Bell, and Edna Firor** enjoyed the time of sharing memories and laughs. The next luncheon will be on Jan. 20, 2011 and you are invited to attend

**James Payne** was honored by his daughter **Ellen Long** and her family with a wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at the First Baptist Church in Baxley, GA on Nov. 14, 2010. A host of friends, family, and work and retirement associates from throughout the state enjoyed the occasion with him. **James**

continues to live in the home that he and his late wife, **Martha**, remodeled and moved to so as to be near their daughter. **James** retired in 1976 with over 30 years with the agency including District Conservationist positions in Jackson and Cedartown, GA and RC&D Engineer position in Soperton, GA. Two of **James's** brothers now deceased, also retired from SCS. **David Payne** was Area Engineer in Carrollton, GA and **Jake Payne** worked in National Headquarters in Washington after several Georgia field positions.

## IDAHO

**Stan Hobson, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [stanhob@cableone.net](mailto:stanhob@cableone.net)

Idaho retirees had their Nov. meeting on the 18th with just under 20 in attendance. **Glenn & Florence Logan** were there for the first time in several months. This is not to admonish for missing luncheons but to encourage continued attendance. It was good to see them again. **Glenn** said he has finally, as of Sept., decided to give up the second or third career and take on more "honey-do's".

The **Froemings** had an excursion to the Northeast, a fourteen day cruise into Canadian Provinces that ended seven days early when **Mary** was hospitalized in both the ship and in Quebec for several days. **Dennis's** accommodations were less than desirable but they managed to get back to Boston to catch their flight back. It was an experience that neither wanted to repeat, ever. There are so many twists and turns to their seven days ashore that details will have to come from them. We are overjoyed to have them back in our midst.

The **Gallups** were also in attendance and **Gladine** informed the group of the up-coming musical extravaganza in celebration of Hymns of Thanksgiving. She has been a member of the choir for many years and informed me that she is the most experienced singer in the many-membered group. It was truly wonderful, the Philharmonic accompanied the affair and it was most exhilarating. Our steadfast **Stewart's** were happily in attendance in spite of a mishap that left him with a bruised hand; the shade of purple is almost impossible to duplicate. The cause of the bruise is to be lamented but the color is one of a kind and **Don** is recovering with good humor. The **Brownfields** are about to embark on their return to IL and assure us that they will judge their travel to coincide with road conditions. Have a good safe trip.

The singles in attendance included **Jim Cornwell, John Kendrick, Frank Fink, Paul Malone, me (Stan), and Sharon Norris**. I want to express much thanks from all the Idaho Retirees to **Sharon** for holding the sessions while **Kathy** and I were either out of town or otherwise occupied with a few days of hospital time of my own. Thanks, **Sharon!**

I am remiss in not mentioning the **Faudes**, they too were in attendance, I didn't get to visit with them but we can all rest assured that they have fresh meat on their table or in the freezer; I'll confirm that next month and let you know the specie(s) of meat.

**Keep Smiling!**



## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net**

The Southern Illinois retirees gathered for lunch and visiting on Dec. 8th in Mt. Vernon. Attending were **Dwight Esarey, Glynn & Marge Shubert, Buck & Ernie Morris, Joe & Nancy Fasig**, and **Dale & Nancy Benz**. We also celebrated **Glynn's** 79th birthday that day. **Buck Morris** told us that he will be celebrating his 90th birthday in June. Just a bunch of kids! **Dwight** reported that **Leroy & Maxine Dreschel** couldn't attend because they both were working at a food pantry in Albion that day. **Dwight's** porch swing making hobby is still going strong. He has made over 400 so far and they are all over the country. I guess this gives a new meaning to retiring to the swing! **Dwight** also is quite a jelly maker. He makes several flavors and gives them away to friends and relatives. **Glynn & Marge** are singing in a Christmas Cantata and have given performances at several places.

The next gathering of this group is March 9, 2011 at the A's Cafe in Mt. Vernon at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

New retirees in December are **Ben Mingo**, DC at the Tuscola Field Office; **Gene Davis**, DC at the Shelbyville Field Office; **Garry Barnett**, Resource Specialist in the Marion NRCS Service Center; and **Bob McLeese**, State Soil Scientist at Champaign. We welcome you to the world of retirement and wish you the best.

We are sorry to report the death of **Ruth Kuder**, wife of **Homer Kuder**, on November 25. **Homer & Ruth** moved to Champaign from their country home about a year and half ago. We extend our sympathy to **Homer** and their family.

## IOWA

**Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative**

On Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, fifty-nine SCS/NRCS retirees, spouses and friends enjoyed a holiday luncheon at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Des Moines. This has become a popular place for the group for both the food and convenience of getting there. By unanimous agreement, we will go back next holiday season. Thanks to **Marge Miller** for making the arrangements and once again providing gifts for everyone. We are still kids at heart and like to see what is in each bag or box. Recognition for birthdays on the 18<sup>th</sup> went to **Bev Miller** and **Don Borts**. **Don** retired in 1993 and had not been to one of our gatherings. I think he found he has missed some good times. **Henry & Mary Lou Staubus** were recognized for being married the longest, 64 years – Aug. 17, 1947.

Attending were Chuck & Phyllis Fisher, Jan Schmidt, **Eldon & Jeannie Weber**, Ames; **Ron Walker, Dennis & Linda Miller, Joe Ausan, Denny Peterson**, Ankeny; **Gerald & Marion Stevens, Herman & Helen Kopitzke, Rus & Donna Knutson**, Boone; **Ron & Marsha Snyder**, Burlington; **Lyle & Charlotte Asell**, Chariton; **Brian Peterson**, Corning; **Dewey Bondurant, Margaret Dysart, Darhol & Bev Miller, Jack & Maralee Sarasio, Deane Glen & Margaret**

**Hemphill, Wilma Maddy, Don & Joyce Frevert, Don & Doris Ummel, Don & Kay Peterson, Marge Miller, John Chenoweth, Bernie Runkel, Mark & Ann Jensen**, Des Moines/West Des Moines; **Art & Mary Jane Bryant, Henry & Mary Lou Staubus**, Indianola; **Lew & Connie Brent**, Knoxville; **Roger & Donita Link**, Maxwell; **Volney Smith & daughter, Kathy**, Waukee; **Ron & Jo Hersom**, Marshalltown; **Debbie Cavett**, Norwalk; **Don Borts**, Sigourney; **Don & Donna Redman**, Van Wert; **Dale Frank & daughter, Nancy Hanson**, Winterset.

**Marge Miller** has been traveling again, this time in October, to Egypt on a 12-day trip. She has been to other areas of Africa on three separate occasions, none of which included Egypt. Highlights included four days in Cairo where the hotel was on the banks of the Nile River, Alabaster Sphinx weighing 90 tons, Great Pyramids, Abu Simbel to see Temples of Ramses, II and Queen Nefertari, the Aswan Dam, a 4-day cruise on the Nile, Valley of the Kings & Queens, Temples of Karnak and Luxor, a camel ride, the beautiful country side by motor coach and many King Tut items in a Cairo museum. She reported the group was cared for by a local guide and protected by an armed guard. An interesting lesson, but possibly not needed to know about, was how to preserve a body to be a mummy.

**Deane Glen's** daughter and family from Minneapolis joined him at our breakfast group recently. His granddaughter from Indianola graduated in December from Iowa State University, Cum Laude with a 3.9 + grade average. She has a triple major and will be teaching English As A Second Language at a school in Minneapolis. **Deane** has reason to be proud.

All of us extend our sympathy to **Loren & Alma Elliott** of Mesa, AZ. Their son, **Bob**, of Des Moines, passed away Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> after a lengthy illness from cancer. **Loren & Alma** were with us several weeks ago.

A message from **Judy (Rathel) Clause**, Sioux City – **Don Jahn** passed away on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. He retired as a Civil Engineering Technician from the Sioux City area office a number of years ago with 40 years of service. He is survived by his wife, **Betty**, of 59 years, five children and eight grandchildren.

Snow Bird News – **Rosie & Bob Gaudette** are spending the winter in Myrtle Beach, SC. **Judy & Mark Clause** will soon be in FL. The rest of us will have to shovel snow.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: rlull2@cox.net**

Two Kansas couples recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries. **Dan Denneler**, retired area engineer at Colby, KS, and wife, **Margaret**, were honored at a reception on Nov. 26, 2010. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

**Jack Benn**, retired soil conservation technician at Smith Center, KS, and wife, **Arlene**, celebrated with a reception on

December 4, 2010. They have one son and two grandsons. **Arlene** is retired from ASCS.

**Francis Komarek**, retired civil engineer from Salina State Office, is recovering from back surgery. He has been released from the doctor and continues his recovery in therapy. Although he is improving daily, it will be some time before he will be back to full-time farming.

Five will have joined the Kansas retiree ranks by the end of this year. **Kenneth Kuiper**, biologist at the Salina State Office, retired in Nov. He started his career in 1979 as a soil conservation aid at Beloit, KS. He moved on as soil conservationist on an area technical staff headquartered at Garden City and as district conservationist at Russell before moving to the Salina State Office as a soil conservationist in 1990. He served as a biologist until his retirement.

Also retiring in Nov. was **Nelson Orr**, soil conservation technician at Independence, KS. Starting as a WAE in 1980, **Nelson** spent his entire career at Independence.

**Joan Gienger**, the first Kansas lady district conservationist, retired Dec. 3. **Joan** graduated from Kansas State University and began her career as a soil conservationist in 1978 at the Oberlin field office. In 1980 she accepted a soil conservationist position in Lincoln, KS, and later that same year moved to St. Francis as the district conservationist where she served for 32 years. Thirty years ago it was uncommon to hire a woman to work as a district conservationist for the SCS. A flag will be flown at the U.S. Capitol in her honor.

Firsts run in **Joan's** family. Her daughter **Jody** was hired as the first female soil scientist in KS and presently works in the Salina State Office.

Two others retiring in December are **Sandy Hudson**, soil conservation aid at Osborne, KS. **Sandy** began her career as a WAE in 1977 and served in Osborne her entire career. **Sandy** was among the very first female soil conservation aids hired in KS. **Mary Lou Hainsworth**, soil conservation aid at Wellington, KS, also started her career as a WAE in 1983 and remained in Wellington until her retirement.

## LOUISIANA

**Joe Branco**, ARCSE Representative  
Email: [jandmbranc@aol.com](mailto:jandmbranc@aol.com)

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Louisiana SCS-NRCS Retiree's Luncheon was held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Alexandria, LA. The retirees started gathering at 10:00 A.M. to enjoy a cup of coffee and visiting.

There were 45 retiree's and guests in attendance. Those present were: **Dale & Sylvia Rockett, Max Johnston & Sybil Ray, Joe & Marge Branco, Marilyn Rabalais, Valine Collard, Jeannine Dezendorf, Catherine Sloan, Jim & Robbie Loe, Ken & Betty Mixon, Dozier & Winnie Harrell, Francis & Helen Artley, Arron Hinkston, Jimmy Winston, Bonnie Rockett, Lester & Ruby Loftin, Nancy Bryant, Gene & Ida Simmons, Malcolm & Peggy McDonald, Hugh Tidwell,**

**Harry & Dee Hawthorne, Paul Wallace, Ronnie Venson, Ed Giering, Betty Jones, Warren Cockerham, Marty Floyd, George Guillory, Max Baer, and Tom Campbell.**

**Jimmy Winston** gave the invocation before the group enjoyed a cafeteria lunch.

The meeting started about 12:45 P.M. with **Joe Branco** welcoming everyone. He stated the attendance was great but a few short of last year. Letters were read or reports from retiree's : **Chester Ballard, Arville Touchet, Horace Austin, Carl Thompson, Charles Phillips, and Garland Colvin** who could not be with us.

In honor of Veterans Day the group held a brief period of silent prayer.

**Joe** introduced **Kevin Norton**, Louisiana STC, and asked for his comments. **Kevin** reported on the recent all state employee meeting with NRCS Chief **Dave White** and several retirees in attendance. All agreed the meeting went very well. **Kevin** explained our agency involvement in the BP oil spill in the Gulf. He stated our involvement was indirect but very helpful in providing information and cost sharing assistance to rice farmers for flooding rice fields for safe alternate wetlands for migratory birds. Several thousands of acres of flooded rice land were accomplished in a very short time.

**Max Johnston** provided a brief report on retiree activities during the past year. He reported that seven retirees had passed away during the past year.

An open discussion was held concerning the FEHBP open season. The approximate 7% increase in medicare B cost, all with no COLA increase was discussed at some length.

**Joe** recognized the planning committee for their work in planning the meeting. Members are **Dale Rockett, Paul Miletello, Warren Cockerham, Marilyn Rabalais, Max Johnston, and Joe Branco.**

The retirees all agreed to continue as they have with our annual retiree luncheon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesoloski**, ARCSE Representative  
Email: [jim.wesoloski@gmail.com](mailto:jim.wesoloski@gmail.com)

I've been neglectful of my duty to provide timely reports from Massachusetts with news of retirees. I've been chastised by at least two people, so at least someone(s) looks forward to my news. I promise to try to do better in the future.

**Larry Boutiette**, Civil Engineer in the Holden office, retired this summer after 40+ years with SCS/NRCS. **Larry** was project engineer on a number of PL-566 sites and worked with **Marc MacQueen** on the Mass. Community Assistance Program. In recent years **Larry** spent a lot of time assisting the state with dam safety inspections and reports.

**Larry** is the last-to-graduate of the SCS Civil Engineers that were in my surveying lab classes, when I was a grad. student at UMass over 45 years ago. I can still remember instilling knowledge about balancing traverses, drawing contours, sun shots, and mass diagrams – all useless knowledge nowadays when surveys get reduced, plotted, and everything else by pushing a button or two.

Unless I'm losing my marbles my earlier UMass engineers included **Jack Tibbets**, **Greg Smead**, and **Dennis Verdi**; all of whom have now retired from SCS/NRCS and continue to enjoy the monthly benefits of their relationship with OPM.

**Claudette Placzek**, Accounting Technician in Amherst has also retired. **Claudette** celebrated her retirement by taking her first trip with her husband **Paul** to Las Vegas. They thought it might be their only trip (been there, done that) so they were planning regal accommodations, shows, and dining. I think they planned to finance the trip with their Vegas winnings. Now **Claudette** is back home being the doting "Meme" to her two grandkids.

In Dec. **Carl Gustafson** hosted the "Projects of Pride" meeting and holiday lunch for present and past members of the engineering team. Besides learning about current, interesting engineering projects we got a chance to get together with the retired bunch.

#### **As I remember it, the retirees included:**

**Jack Lace**, former construction inspector, who has devoted his retirement to the practice of golf - playing at least 200 rounds a year.

**Dick Standish**, former Contract Specialist, who still co-owns a firm that assists NRCS with emergency construction contracting. **Dick** has projects underway in AR and TX. I think **Dick** said he was fast approaching the big "eight oh".

**Frank Wilda**, another former Contract Specialist, who has now developed an interest in hunting rocks and minerals.

**Dennis Verdi**, former Civil Engineer, who is going to be starting a new career as an income tax preparer. **Dennis** told me that his Dad, **Arthur Verdi**, retired Administrative Officer is 88 and still perking along.

**Cecil Currin**, retired state engineer and state conservationist who has found a new career as a farmer, truck driver, and squash peeler for his neighbor who raises and peels mucho thousand tons of butternut squash.

**Cecil** was the emcee at lunch when we honored Geologist **Rudy Chlanda** who retires in the early hours of 2011. **Rudy** plans to do more deer hunting next year and intends to change his hobby from deer hunter to deer slayer and finally bag a critter. One of **Rudy's** kids is working to become a wine maker so **Rudy & Kathy** are thinking about going out to CA and helping with the crush, the bottling, and the tasting.

## **MISSOURI**

**Dave Rastorfer**, *ARCSE Representative*  
Email: [moarscse@aol.com](mailto:moarscse@aol.com)

**Jean Herman** has officially left the building! **Jean Herman**, Executive Secretary to the Missouri NRCS State Conservationist retired on Dec. 3rd. **Jean** honored Missouri NRCS and its employees with her dedication and service for more than 40 years. She started working in the fall of 1970 as a clerk typist in the Human Resources section, was secretary for the State Administrative Officer for two years, and has served six different State Conservationists as their secretary since 1975. We welcome **Jean** to our retiree ranks. She tells us that she is happy not to spend from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM in the office and she can go shopping 5 days a week now.

Other recent retirees include; **Bob Ball**, State Resource Conservationist, **John Turner**, State Grasslands Conservationist in the Moberly Field Office, **Jay Lingwall**, Area Resource Conservationist in the Palmyra Area Office, **Joyce Rogers**, AAC in the St. Joseph Area Office. We welcome these folks to the ranks of the old and retired.

The **Mike Blaine's** haven't done a lot lately except deer hunting and getting ready for Christmas. We had fun hunting, as we always do, but my son was the only successful hunter this year. At Thanksgiving (we call it "ThanksChristmas") all our kids and grandkids were here. We celebrate Christmas early and have a great time deep frying turkeys and eating lots of pumpkin and pecan pies!! We had our church cantata on Dec. 19. It was a good time and good to be involved in it. We are planning a new year's trip to see our girls in the eastern lands of PA and WV. I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and wish you a happy and prosperous new year!!

Not a whole lot has been going on for **Rob Cheshier** over the past 2 months. **Rob** is still enjoying retirement and it will be one year on Dec. 18. **Rob** is letting his hair and beard go for a while and has been told by several of his SCS/NRCS "friends" that he now resembles Gabby Hayes. **Rob** claims he is now on a fixed income and can no longer afford shaving cream and razor blades and haircuts are now \$14 dollars a pop. He's having fun though. **Rob** did have cataract surgery on both eyes - the left one in Oct. and the right one on Dec. 7. He now does not need to wear glasses for long distance, driving, watching TV, and most everyday tasks. He will still need glasses for reading. This is quite a change and very nice since he has worn glasses since he was 3 years old. **Debra** says he looks weird as she has seen him wearing them almost all the time for the past 38 years. The ophthalmologist and outpatient clinic personnel/facilities were outstanding. It is a great thing to live in the Columbia area where we can obtain excellent healthcare and have access to the latest medical technology. We have been winterizing things and have put away all the yard equipment for the winter. We also had a new heat pump and furnace installed. This came with a \$1500 tax credit, \$500 rebate from the manufacturer, \$750 rebate from Boone Electric, and a separate meter installed for the heat pump and furnace so we pay 5.2 cents per kwh as opposed to 9 cents per kwh for the rest of our electricity. Was just in time for the big freeze we are now having (Dec. 12). **Rob & Debra** will stay in the



Columbia area for the holidays and will spend the time with their 2 dogs and 3 cats. Happy holidays to everyone.

From **Keith Davis**.... Our biggest news is our new grandson! My younger son, **Dan**, and his wife, **Keela**, have been unable to have kids for several years. They even tried the In-Vitro route, to no avail. They decided to adopt, and chose a South Korean agency, through whom they received 8-month-old **Elon**. He's a happy little guy, and I'm coming to realize that all these stories I've heard about grandkids being so great...it's true. He's got me wrapped around his finger. Deer season is not quite over; muzzleloader season is yet to come. So far we have put plenty of meat in the freezer, but nothing for the wall. I'm still staying busy at the farm and on home projects. Merry Christmas to all.

From **Jess Epple**: Cold weather finally reached the Warner, OK area. We have had some very cold nightly temperatures here on the ranch. We began feeding big round bales in Oct. Also, we just marketed our spring calf crop at Oklahoma City last week. Prices are starting to look better. 'Big gun' deer hunting season is almost over and deer are returning to our yard. **Phyllis & Jess** enjoy most of the wildlife here, but not so much the coyote, bobcat, & wild hogs. We lease some timbered/rough land for hunting and occasionally the hunters will harvest bobcat, coyote, & wild hog, which help to control the population. **Phyllis & Jess** plan to spend Christmas in K.C., MO with our daughter, son-in-law & grand-kids. Plans for seeing our other daughter & family are uncertain. They still reside in Nashville, TN. We plan to attend the K. C. Repertory theatre to see 'A Christmas Carol'. We enjoy downtown K.C. especially during the Christmas Holidays. We hope, for Christmas day, that our daughter prepares an *Angus* beef pot-roast for all of us. Yum! From the J. P. Ranch near Warner, OK, we wish you all **health, happiness, and a Joyous Holiday Season**.

**Bonnie & Randy Freeland** are just enjoying life and starting the process of enjoying grandchildren. **Chris & Kari** live in Ft. Worth, TX and have two sons, **Casen** and **Cale**. **Blake & Katie** live in Charleston, SC and are expecting their first "boy" in April 2011. **Bonnie** hopes to "camp out" in Charleston for a few months before and after the birth. **Bonnie** spends quite a bit of time caring for her dad who still lives alone at 85 and has had back and hip surgery over the past year. **Randy** still spends his time with the Master Gardener Program and with a couple of retirees groups. He agrees with another OK retiree who says, "My biggest gripe about retirement is you never get a day off. Not even a Holiday! Think about it."

**Jerold & Mayree Sue** will be taking a short vacation to the south. We will be again traveling with my sister and brother-in-law and should be back before Christmas. Cancun is our destination this year.

**Bill Pauls** says: his current activities revolve around my mom falling and fracturing her hip while visiting us Thanksgiving. Following successful surgery at Boone Hospital she is recuperating at Lenoir Care Facility here in town. Plan to go to a Tiger BGame with MOAssocProfSoilScientists Saturday. We will be doing some G'parenting this weekend as well. The schedule has 3 marathons on the books for next year

thus far...Birmingham, AL; Dayton, OH; & Brookings, SD... I'll probably add a couple more, God willin' & the criks don't rise. The lake cabin needs a visit and volunteering continues unabated. I am now taking some time off from training runs, substituting, looking after mom and preparing for Christmas. I enjoyed seeing many of you at **Jean Herman's** retirement doings. That's my story & I'm still sticking to it...off to the hot tub with a frozen margarita (actually 2 or 3 or...?!). Well, you get the picture. Life is good.

From **Carl Anderson**: We spent Thanksgiving week in Florence, AL where our oldest daughter, **Joyce**, lives and Birmingham where one of our grand-daughters lives. Our daughters think that we two 90 year olds should not be driving on the highway so **Joyce** came and got us and brought us home--500 miles from our house to hers and another 140 miles on to our grand-daughter's house. We didn't like for **Joyce** to have to drive 2,280 miles but it sure was good to sit and watch the scenery go by. Lots of good food and good visiting, but there was considerable moaning over Alabama's football loss to Auburn!! We got to be with 4 of our 7 grandchildren and 7 of our 15 great grand-children. We have 5 great grand-daughters and 10 great grand-sons with another great grand-son due in February.

We plan to stay in Columbia for Christmas and probably will eat at the Cracker Barrel.

**Paula Price** ...For the past 2 1/2 years I have enjoyed working in the Space and Leasing Department of the Bureau of Census in their Regional Census Center located in Kansas City, MO. The experience was very rewarding both professionally and personally. I was able to put to work those skills I developed as area administrative coordinator in St. Joseph's NRCS area office to reach new heights and do things unimaginable. The region in which I worked is comprised of 6 states. I was fortunate to touch base in all but one. Their pleasure in me was expressed in many monetary ways. The best were the two bonuses that accompanied the two year end performance appraisals and two huge promotions. So, retirees . . . you never know where the next door will open and what you will walk into. Always keep your options open! Happy Holidays!

Not much to report from the **Ed Smith** household, just the rush of business of the Blessed Christmas season. I did get to attend the retirement sent off for your good friend and mine, **Jean Herman**. By the size of the turnout you could tell there were many, many others who felt the same way about **Miss Jean**. We are also getting ready for a fast, after Christmas get away for hopefully a warmer climate, namely sunny FLORIDA! See you next spring.

From **Lane Thurman**: I am getting back up to speed, still can't swallow as I used to, but I am learning to live with that, probably have no choice but to learn to accept it. Hunting and fishing has not been impacted at all. I hunted several days for deer, but never even saw a doe, hunted here in MO and down in LA with my son, **Randy**. Had a good first day on duck hunting and am planning to get back into that as soon as I throw a cold I picked up somewhere.

**Lyle Noblitt** recently did the annual Branson golfing trip with the ol' (old) bowling buddies from Chillicothe. We played at *Murder Rock, Payne Stewart, and Pointe Royale*. The wives did some serious shopping. We made a couple of shows and had a great time. The first of November **Lyle** attended his 50 year class reunion at College of the Ozarks. The 1960 Junior College basketball team was recognized at half-time of the b-ball game. Eight of the 15 of us were there, three had passed on..... The other 7 looked old.

We were saddened to hear of the untimely passing of a former "SCS" employee, **Warren Elliott**. **Warren** was a great guy and wonderful employee. He was heavily involved in the local music scene and played in several local bands. A music scholarship is being established in his name. This annual scholarship would allow a young child, who might not otherwise have the means, a chance to explore the world of music that Warren loved.

**I HOPE THAT YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL 2011!!**

## **MONTANA**

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [inca@3rivers.net](mailto:inca@3rivers.net)**

Here is Dec. 1st breakfast attendee's: **Bob Remer, Joan & Jim Johnson, Liz & Bob Lohmiller, Bob Lund, Van Haderlie, Bob ODriscoll, Nancy & Bob Ross, Ralph Bergintine, Shirley & Ray Smith, Bridget & Frank Schledorn, Dave Jones, Elsie & Ron Batchelor, and Judy & Hal Hunter.**

We've closed up the ranch for the winter and spending time with the grandkids in Stevensville. We have a 6 foot 3 inch freshman and a 6 foot Junior playing high school varsity basketball and they are doing very well, so we will be going to more basketball games this winter.

We have about 8 inches of crusted snow and are watching the deer enjoy our windbreaks and the partridges feeding under the bird feeders. You can see we have lots to do in our retirement. The work part is still chopping wood for the three wood stoves and keeping warm.

**James Johnson Report:** There was a good turnout with 22 attending the Retiree Breakfast in Bozeman on Dec. 1st. There was quite a bit of discussion about what is going on in Congress that is of concern to federal employees and retirees; and action typical of what NARFE is encouraging to push for Congressional action to protect benefits and fairly treat federal retirees.

There would have had a couple more at the breakfast but they got picked for not having a Christmas Tree permit.

**Scott Hoag Report:** **Scott & Nancy** have spent the last 2 months at an RV park in Poulsbo, WA visiting family. They were blessed to see their daughter, **Lisa**, in the starring role (Miss Hannigan) of *Annie* - a production of Bainbridge Performing Arts. This was her first time on stage since middle school. She won great acclaim and has been told by directors

and fellow actors that she is destined for even bigger and better. Even the reviewers in the local papers acclaimed her.

They'll spend Christmas Eve with their older daughter and family in Sammamish and Christmas Day with their younger daughter and family on Bainbridge Island - along with the 20+ who've now been invited (people with nowhere to go . . . and the daughter just kept inviting).

They leave WA for Yuma on 12/27 and to spend New Years Eve with Habitat friends, followed by two weeks of rest and relaxation and drying out. Then on to Las Cruces, NM for 6 weeks building with HFH followed by builds in Mason, TX, Phenix City, AL, and Lexington and Waynesboro, VA.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** Man, what a year. We thought last year was tough but it didn't hold a candle to this year.

The last 10 years we have been in a drought and spent hours talking to the rain gods. They must have been off to some long training session because they never answered our prayers. I'm wondering if they have voicemail but can't access it when they are not in the office. When they got back on the job they counted all our prayers for rain and answered every past request we ever made. This year it rained every day. You talk about mixed emotions. The farmers in our area were thanking the rain gods and crying at the same time because the hay was getting wet. **Mary Ann** cut hay, loaded it right away on the trailer, and hauled it to anything that had a roof and stacked it to dry. I had to have her move one stack since it was between my chair and the TV.

A fox has been hanging around and I was planning to have him made into a stole to surprise **Mary Ann** for Christmas. But **Mary Ann** started feeding him dog food since all the ground squirrels have hibernated. There went **Mary Ann's** Christmas gift since I didn't think she would be too happy if I had the fox made into a stole. But I lucked out. The other day when I was headed across the field sneaking up on a deer, just then a wolf came trotting across the field right in front of me and scared the deer. The wolf's radio collar looks good on **Mary Ann's** pet fox. The wolf skin will make a great stole. Plus **Mary Ann** doesn't have to worry about getting shot when she wears the stole, since it is illegal to shoot a wolf.

**Mary Ann** had another busy year with the Ramblin Rose Drill team. They performed at a lot of rodeos around the area. They almost won the state title again this year. If three of the other drill teams had stayed home, the Ramblin Rose would have won. They did get first place in trick bronc riding.

Normally **Mary Ann** goes elk hunting with me and carries our lunches, extra clothes, the gun, etc. while I focus on looking for tracks and the easiest route up the mountain. But this year she got a building kit at a yard sale that has a ton of metal pieces that look like a giant erector set. After the frame is up, it's covered with canvas. She has been taking all her spare time to put the metal pieces together and hoping to get the building up before Christmas. Consequently I had to go hunting without her. Having to carry the back pack



and gun really threw me off. It took nearly twice as long to climb the mountain with all the extra weight I was carrying. By the time I got to where the elk were supposed to be, they had gone somewhere else. The same thing happened every day. Consequently, we will be eating mostly ground squirrels and wolf meat this winter. If **Mary Ann** had gone along and carried everything, we could have made it to the top of the mountain while the elk were still there.

It has really been something to watch **Mary Ann** putting her erector set canvas building together. After she gets the pieces for an arch bolted together she then needs to lift the arch and set it in place and bolt it down. She's got thirteen arches to stand up and bolt in place. She had to tie a 20 foot pole to the bucket on the tractor loader so it would be tall enough and she could lift the arches. I'm sure glad OSHA didn't show up while this was going on. She lifted an arch then had to shimmy up the pole and tie it off so it wouldn't fall over. One day the wind was blowing like crazy and I happened to be looking out the window as she shimmied up the pole. When she got to the top the wind blew her legs off the pole and she was hanging on with both hands. She looked like a flag blowing in the wind. I couldn't decide if I should grab the camera and take her picture or try to help her get down. I got my Paddle Fish fishing pole with a big Hook on it and after 21 casts I hooked her. I wrapped the line around the pole she had tied to the tractor bucket and reeled her in. Then we got a bungee cord and **Mary Ann** crawled up the pole and tied it to the top of the arch. When she needed more bolts she would let go of the arch, bounce down to the ground, grab some bolts, and the bungee cord would spring her right back up. I tried to get **Mary Ann** to wait until the wind quit or until I wasn't tied up with conference calls but she is so focused on getting the building up before Christmas she works day and night on it when she has time. I would really like to help her but during the day it seems I'm always waiting for a phone call and every night there is a football game on. Fantasy Football really keeps your nose to the grind stone.

The other day it was 20 below Zero and Turkey Day wasn't even here yet. **Mary Ann** would run out to bolt a couple pieces together, then head back to the house to warm up, and head out again. I felt so sorry for her that I drove the pickup out to where she was working so she could hop in the pickup to get warm. That way she didn't lose so much time having to go all the way to house to warm up. Twice when **Mary Ann** got in the pickup she had a bolt frozen to her finger. It's a good thing her nose hadn't started to itch. I was able to listen to the ball game on the radio which wasn't too bad. **Mary Ann** was real pleased that I was able to take the time to help her be more efficient.

The day we were 20 below our kid in Austin, TX called and said it was 72.3 degrees there. Every time it would go up a degree he would call and give us a weather report. He is no longer named in our will. And if he calls with his fancy weather report again, we may just load up our cows and horses and pay him a visit till next spring.

**Mary Ann** got her giant erector set frame up and it came time for her to slide the canvas cover over the frame. That was something to watch. According to the instructions you

lay out the canvas on one side of the building, tie ropes on the canvas and throw the ropes over the building. **Mary Ann** tied a soft ball on the rope then she would throw the ball and rope over the building. She had to do it for all thirteen ropes. Then she crawled to the top of the frame, braced her feet and started pulling. The canvas started to slide up the frame. Just then big wind hit and the canvas blew straight out. **Mary Ann** was flying 30 feet in the air holding on to the canvas and was being whipped around like being hooked to the end of a flag in a wind storm. The only thing I could think of to help was to untie the canvas from the building so it would fall to the ground. That didn't work too well. **Mary Ann** called me on her cell phone and she had just talked to Dorothy and Toto. I hope she makes it back in time to get my supper on.

**Pearlie Reed**, USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration, presented **Morris Reid**, Chairman of the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians with a copy of the Mutual Agreement between the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, and the Picayune Rancheria Tribal Resource Conservation District. The presentation was made at the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance and Intertribal Agriculture Council co-hosted Tribal Conference in Las Vegas. We are real fortunate that **Pearlie** is serving in his current USDA position. He is making a real difference.

NRCS California State Conservationist **Ed Burton**, Assistant for Field Operations **Curtis Tarver**, American Indian Liaison **Reina Rogers**, along with a number of other NRCS employees attended this annual conference. "I was extremely impressed by the presenters and valuable dialogue at this year's conference," said **Burton**. **Ed** is doing an excellent job working with and bringing NRCS programs to the Tribes.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman & Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives**

Email: [nkempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:nkempf@neb.rr.com)

Email: [skempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:skempf@neb.rr.com)

The Nov. meeting was called to order by President **Jim Harder**. The nominating committee has a slate of candidates for the 2011 officers that will be voted on at the Dec. meeting.

"Dig It – Secrets of Soil," a traveling exhibit on soils from the Smithsonian, is at the Durham Museum in Omaha. Several members of our retirees club have seen the exhibit and say it is excellent. **Jim Harder** made a plea for volunteers to work at the exhibit.

**Paul Smith** reported on the Oct. breakfast. Forty-three members and guests were present and all appeared to have had a good time

**Sylvia Kempf** has a birthday this coming Monday. **Pete Jensen** will have his 87th in two weeks. **Bob Koerner** had a pacemaker installed and is feeling better. **Sylvia Kempf** had back surgery three weeks ago, and this is her first outing. **Joe Kuening** had a permit for two deer, but got three because he hit one with his vehicle.

**Steve Stover** and his son from Cincinnati went pheasant hunting several weeks ago. They shot some holes in the air, but not any pheasants. **Gary Muckel** and his wife traveled to Zurich, Switzerland, to a cartridge show, then went on a 7-day cruise on the Rhine.

**Lou Buller** had bypass surgery on Oct. 11 and went deer hunting in Nov. **Wayne Liesemeyer's** son had bone marrow transplant surgery. It went well, and he is back home in Hawaii.

The Dec. meeting was called to order by President **Jim Harder**. There were 30 members present.

**Jim Harder** reported that the nominating committee had a slate of candidates for election: President **Paul Smith**, Vice-President **Dave Langemeier**, and Secretary Treasurer **Donna Dornbusch**. It was moved and seconded that the candidates be elected by acclamation, and was passed.

New callers will start in Jan.: Group 1 - **Dave Camper**, Group 2 - **Jim Culver**, Group 3 - **Margaret Hitz**, Group 4 - **Frances King**, Group 5 - **Gary Muckel**, Group 6 - **Steve Stover**, and Group 7 - **Don Williamson**.

**Pete Jensen**, **Lou Buller**, **Scott Argabright**, and **Kay Westerman** celebrate birthdays in Dec. **Bill Hance** and wife will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, **Pete Jensen** and wife their 64<sup>th</sup>, and **Jim Harder** and wife their 38<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob Koerner's** wife is in Madonna. **Bob** is still recovering from surgery. **JoAnne Thiele** reported that **Bob Foster** had been in the hospital last month but is now home. **Sylvia** reported that she is doing better after another surgery for an infection resulting from her previous back surgery. She is undergoing infusion treatments for that infection until Dec. 24.

**Bob Ferguson** died; he had worked as an economist on the Watershed Staff in the State Office before retiring. **Don Hoppes'** wife was in an auto accident and doing well.

**Jim Harder** thanked everyone for their help during his presidency. He also urged members to join and support NARFE, especially during this time of proposed budget cuts to employee/retiree benefits.

The Jan. and Feb. meetings will be held at 8:00 a.m. instead of the usual 7:30 a.m.

## NEW YORK

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

**Jim Booth** reports he is still working for Western New York Crop Management, along with **Bob Hartrick** and **Jim Seiler**, on the CAFO Planning Staff working with about 140 dairy, poultry, hog, and horse farms in western NY.

**Paul Dodd** reports his wife, **Rose**, is again in treatment for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. She is receiving treatment in Buffalo at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. She is tolerating the treatments much better with the only side effects so far

being nausea developed on the ride home and continuing nervousness. This time she is being treated with Rituxin, the same drug she received eleven years ago, and a new accompanying drug, Bendamustine, that was developed in East Germany but not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Czuczman, at Roswell, is one of the leading experts on Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in the world so there was no problem with insurance accepting the treatment. The treatment he used on **Rose** and 15 others in a study 11 years ago has become the accepted treatment for Mantle Cell (her specific lymphoma) world wide and he considers the new treatment to be even better. We like it better because it only involves treatment two days a month instead of six with the other accompanying drug. **Paul & Rose** appreciate your expressions of concern and your prayers.

**Jim Calhoun** will be retiring January 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Jim** has served as Soil Conservationist (Horseheads, Chemung Co.), District Conservationist (Ghent-Hudson, Columbia Co.), and Area Resource Conservationist (Albany AO). **Jim** and wife, **Beth**, will spend Jan. to Mar. in St. Augustine, FL and then return to the Clifton Park area.

**Fred & Mary Gilbert** will be spending the Christmas holidays in Port Orchard, Washington with our children. They also had a nice auto trip Thanksgiving week to MO.

**Tyrone & Shirley Goddard** just returned from a trip to the Dominican Republic. They have been making routine travels to NC to visit relatives and to Boston several times to visit our daughter, husband, and grandchildren. **Shirley** and I are still both fully engaged with H.O.M.E., Inc. and its subsidiaries, though planning to curtail involvement sometimes in the next five years. Like most not-for-profits, we will face fiscal challenges in the next few years. Both are fairly healthy and energetic and have a great deal to be thankful for.

**Bob Hartrick** is working between 25-30 hours per week as a Farmstead Consultant with WNY Crop Management along with **Jim Booth** and **Jim Seiler**. **Bob's** wife, **Susan**, donated a kidney to a dear friend in early Nov. which saved his life.

**Nancy Lee** had a busy Oct. with son, **Andy** getting married to fellow school teacher, **Mary Schiardi**, on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Then she flew to Salt Lake City, UT along with sisters, **Opal** and **Joyce**, picked up a car and sister's dog, drove to Boise and Coer d'Alene, ID and drove East along I-90, through MT, WY, and SD, stopping at Custer's Last Stand, Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands, before dropping down to I-80, through IA, IL, IN, OH, PA, and finally NY. It was a trip I had wanted to make for many years and finally got the opportunity and took it.

**Bob** is still hunting and harvested a buck and three doe. **Bob's** daughter and son-in-law adopted a new baby boy, **Aiden**. **Alex** is now 5 years old and in school. Very smart little man, takes after his grandfather.

**Steve Machovec's** son, **Brett** married **Kelly Ferraro** on July 5<sup>th</sup> on the beach in St. Thomas while on a cruise in the Caribbean. **Brett & Kelly** currently reside in Bristow, VA where both are teachers - **Brett**, physical education and **Kelly** as a special needs teacher.

On July 30, 2010, **Quinn Matthew Machovec**, son of **Matt & Heather**, Fayetteville, NY, made **Steve** a grandfather for the first time. Plans are for grandfather, **Steve**, and Uncle **Kyle** to make him into a decent deer hunter and fisherman if they can just keep his father away from him.

Third son, **Kyle** and finance, **Sonia Carey**, are engaged and planning a wedding for June 4, 2011.

**Steve** had a great year up at the lake, one the nicest summers he can remember. The fishing was awesome and in just two evenings of bass fishing, **Brett** and he caught over 30 largemouth bass. **Steve** was asked to serve as the Bradley Brook Lake President and as co-chair of the Hatch/Bradley Lakes Association. **Steve** can use his experience with NRCS as there are several issues both from a water quality standpoint and neighbor-to-neighbor relationships on the agenda.

Smoke (Da' beagle) and **Steve** still go for morning walks, weather permitting. **Steve** highly recommends a beagle. To them everything is brand new and very much in need of a good sniff no matter how many time they've been past that same spot. Other than that, who could ask for anything more. He notes only 16 weeks until golf league starts again. Gotta' be positive!

**Bob Myers** reports he is still doing wetland delineations with **Fred Gilbert** and working on several wetland mitigation jobs. He went to a working cattle ranch this year in WY for two weeks. This ranch had many more cows than the previous ranch. The ranch was 450,000 acres in size and ran a 4,500 head cow/calf operation. Lots of riding gathering the cattle but we had a ball!

**Rod Sergel**, former SCS Engineering Team Leader for the Seneca Trail RC&D, but retired from FSA, lives in Ellicottville, NY with wife, **Marlene**. They spend the winters in Weeki Wachee, FL from mid-Jan. through mid-Apr.

**Don Wild** is thankful for the 39 years of opportunity to serve the public with SCS/NRCS and feels good about the work we did and the producers we served. His family has been blessed with good health and they continue to serve our God in our church and community.

**Don** and family have accelerated their small farm operation of veg crops, bedding plants and specialty meats with direct sales at farm markets and home stand. Main crops continue to be potatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn, and lamb, bee, pork, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, and even ducks. They also have a herd of true miniature horses that are sold for pets, not meat!

**Don** took on a seed dealership with King's Agri Seed mainly selling forage seeds and the management concepts to dairy operations in the Western NY region. He continues attending and supporting pasture programs in this area as an Earth Team Volunteer and producer. Continues to support and attend

annual meetings of the "Northeast Pasture Consortium). **Don** started his 19<sup>th</sup> year working part-time at the local ski resort (Holiday Valley) in security and public relations.

After five sons, wife **Sharon**, is finally getting her girls! Our older two are married, two in college, and the youngest now a HS senior. All were home schooled all the way through.

Additional retirees that will be joining our ranks January 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Cliff Hand**, Resource Conservationists (Fulton/Madison Counties); **David Kitchie** Biologist (Western NY), **Jim Calhoun**, Resource Conservationist (SO), and **Allan Connell**, District Conservationist (Riverhead).

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland**, *ARCSE Representative*  
*Email: [randy.freeland@suddenlink.net](mailto:randy.freeland@suddenlink.net)*

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met Oct. 15, 2010 at the Hometown Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK. Forty-nine people were in attendance. They were: **David Ankle**, **Mike Barrick**, **Don & Darlene Bartolina**, **Otis Bennett**, **Kenneth & Rebecca Blan**, **Bob Bumgarner**, **Steve Chessmore**, **Everett & Helen Cole**, **Duane Crider**, **David Edmonds**, **Fred & Gayle Fortney**, **Wayne Fjeseth**, **Randy & Bonnie Freeland**, **Jim Frie**, **Lloyd Garrison**, **Gayle & Mary Goforth**, **Sandra Hough**, **Mavis & Wilene Jones**, **Otho LaMar**, **Nick Lambeth**, **Carl & Jeanne Mackey**, **Jim McCampbell**, **Forrest & Louise McClung**, **Gordon & Minnie Moebius**, **George Moreland & his guest Evelyn Miller**, **Nelson Mueller**, **Glen & Eunice Mullen**, **John & Joy Pewthers**, **Stan Rice**, **Gayland Sandy**, **Bob & Milly Smith**, **John & Shirley Spitzer**, and **Roland & June Willis**.

**Bobby Smith** provided the blessing and everyone enjoyed a buffet meal.

Those attending the meeting for the first time were asked to introduce themselves. They were **Duane Crider**, DC @ El Reno & **David Edmonds**, CET @ McAlester AO. Others in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and their spouse or guest.

Oklahoma President **Stan Rice** read a list of retirees who have passed or we have learned of since our April 2010 meeting. Those include: **Sham Coppinger**, WS Planning Staff @ Claremore, 12/3/08; **Tommy Gray**, SCT @ Walters & Hinton, 5/6/10; **Paul Copeland**, DC @ Pauls Valley & Waurika, 5/21/10; **Lavada Moffatt**, widow of **Harold Moffatt**, Soil Scientist; 6/4/10; **Kenneth Risenhoover**, DC @ Poteau, 7/8/10; Widow of **Walter Wilson**, retired WS inspector @ Davis WO & mother of **Tom Wilson**, SC @ Hobart, 7/12/10; **J. C. Waller**, SCT @ Clinton FO, 8/10/10; **Pat Bogart**, DC @ Okmulgee, 10/3/10; **Billy Wagner**, Retired Soil Scientist, 10/5/10; **Newman Hicks**, Clinton WS office & SCT @ Blackwell, 10/7/10; **Gene Avants**, Rush Springs, 9/10/10.

Our newest retiree **Duane Crider** reported he and wife (**Jan**) are settling in to retirement life in El Reno. His three grandsons are quite a joy to them and they spend much time together playing soccer, hiking, and fishing. They



have purchased a travel trailer and taken two cruises. **Jan** substitute teaches and **Duane** serves as an Earth Team Volunteer occasionally. **Duane** has been a runner for many years and still abides by his favorite acronym NETMED (No Excuses, Three Miles, Every Day).

**David Edmonds** lives in McAlester but has moved to the lake where he enjoys fishing, hunting, and some target shooting. He does some babysitting of grandchildren but mostly works in his large garden with fruit trees and grapes. 2010 finds **Bobby Smith** in his fifth year as pastor of First Baptist Church in Wakita, OK. They spend a lot of time with family, 13 of which went to Maui for 9 days this past summer. Every year he takes the family to Branson to see the Christmas Shows. He and **Milly** report excellent health and enjoy life to the fullest.

**Glen & Eunice Mullen** report a full time job enjoying great grandchildren. **Nelson Mueller** enjoys picking up and hauling valuable items to the recycling centers. He plans to use his "wages" to travel somewhere special like Australia. He also teaches a young men's Sunday school class and works part time for USDA Rural Development and cutting cedar trees. (Editor's note: Over the past 15-20 years OK has become "invaded" by two pests. They are cedar trees and wild hogs. Bring your rifles and chain saws and come on down!)

**Nick Lambeth** is a member of the Baptist Disaster Assistance Team and continues to be involved in church work and with the American Legion. He serves on the RC&D Cross-Timbers Board and works part time as a driver for a local car dealer on vehicle trades. He still fishes and rides a motorcycle. **Mavis & Wilene Jones** spend lots of time attending the high school and middle school activities of their grandkids which include basketball, football, soccer, Lacrosse, track, and cross county.

Building a new pond, establishing grass, planting a large garden, and grafting pecan trees keep **Roland & June Willis** busy these days. They live on an acreage west of Stillwater near Lake Carl Blackwell. **Kenneth Blan** is trying to grow a few Loblolly Pines and recently visited the Coastal Redwoods in Northwest CA. He has an aggressive outlook for his Loblolly Pines! He is active in church and with the Gideons and his local conservation district board. **Kenneth** finds the toughest part of being retired is "You never get a day off. Not even Holidays!"

**Mike Barrick** finds himself engulfed in volunteer activities. He is the State Coordinator for the Chainsaw Ministry of the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief Teams. He also is on the Board of Directors for the Southeast Chapter of the Red Cross and Chairman of Deep Fork Community Action. He serves his local Baptist Church with a clothing closet and food pantry. But still, he and his wife (**Mary**) were able to find time to visit their daughter and son-in-law in Canada and take trips to the Bahamas and Florida.

**George Moreland** stays busy with livestock and forestry management projects as well as promoting conservation

and deer management on his farm. **Steve Chessmore** has a great deal. His daughter and son-in-law live in Alaska so he has felt "obligated" to visit them at least once each year over the last three years. He recently moved to Oklahoma City to be closer to a new grandson and his parents. **Steve** still enjoys hunting and camping.

Bray, OK, which is six miles east of Marlow, has the distinct privilege of being the home to **Otho LaMar**. He raises Black Angus calves and provides permits for oil companies to dispose of drilling fluids. **Stan Rice** also works with producers on land application of organic waste, mostly sewage biosolids. He continues to assist the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) with Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans. **Otis Bennett** says he stays busy just walking the dog twice a day.

**Carl Mackey** says he is just enjoying retirement in Kingfisher where he daily goes to coffee with a group and plays games in the afternoon at the local retiree's center. He is slowing up on a large garden and plans to downsize in 2011. **Randy & Bonnie Freeland** took their first cruise in April to the Western Caribbean and a trip to the College World Series in June. After promising **Bonnie** to "see places she'd never been" when he retired, **Bonnie's** patience began to grow thin when all he had to offer was Perkins, Ripley, and Pawnee (Oklahoma).

Helping his son feed cattle, taking care of grand children, and fishing as much as he can with two friends, fill up most days for **Gayland Sandy**. **Jim & Roberta Frie** work as volunteers for the Stillwater Medical Center one day a week. They stay busy with grand kids and attending OSU sporting events.

**Don Bartolina** is employed part time with the Oklahoma County Conservation District and assists with the NRCS Conservation Boot Camp. He still coordinates the National Land and Range Judging Contest. In June, he and **Darlene** traveled to Europe and had a great time.

**Sandra Hough** volunteers at her church with the food pantry and also assists a lady with emphysema who can't get out on her own with shopping, etc. She and **Terry** work May through Sept. each year at Fun Valley RV Resort in South Fork, CO.

**James McCampbell** still lives in Norman and is on the Greenbelt and Greenway Commission and the Norman Area Land Conservancy District for open space. But he really enjoys serving as Sponsor and Pit Crew for his grandson's radio control short course truck. **Wayne Fjeseth** travels three states to see all his grandkids. When he's home he finds time to fish, hunt, and provide assistance to Westmoore High School. He also assisted with the 2010 Census.

It is always fun to hear what others are doing in their retirement years.

The next meeting of the Oklahoma Retirees Group is scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2011, at the Hometown Buffet on the NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative**

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

Several individuals sent some information on their activities. From **Willie Ruffin**: Just a note to those that don't know, that I am currently serving as a Senior USDA Advisor in Sayed Abad Afghanistan with the Army's 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Airborne Brigade, for approximately 1 year (ends mid March 2011). It has been a real challenge, but gratifying to wind down my 45/46 year as an SCS/NRCS employee giving and supporting the cause of freedom at home (US) and throughout the world. Being here with these young soldiers on the ground and in the midst of war, reminds me daily that freedom is not free. Surely I will remember, but if I was home, I would be flying my American Flag high on Veterans Day. I challenge all of you to do the same. **May God bless all of you, and may God bless America!**

We've had a very busy year, reports **John & Donna Mickley**. **John** had a knee replacement in Nov. A great therapist and hard work resulted in full recovery. They decided two weeks in FL was too short so they rented a place in Sun City for two months. It was only two blocks from **Bob & Carole Heidecker**. They enjoyed a lot of visits from family and friends. They had a great visit with **Chuck & Trudy Gentry** in Orlando. After home for three weeks, then a week at the Outer Banks with **Donna's** brother. Finally grandchildren's birthdays completed the summer.

**Bobby & Donna Rakestraw** had a quiet year. Most activities centered around grandkids. **Bobby** provides taxi service to Docs and after school activities for all four. He also serves as Frederick County Soil Conservation District supervisor as well as with the New Market Lions Club. He still finds time to work on restoring old tractors. Presently restoration work in on an 1948 AC B and a 1957 IH 330 Utility.

Here is a snapshot of **John Mank's** life – 19 yrs with SCS in DE and MD; 9 yrs with SCS/NRCS in PA; 15 yrs with PA DER/DEP: now working part time for Transport Services taking Worker's Comp individuals to Dr, ER, etc. He has 10 grandkids. Oldest graduated from PSU in civil engineering; oldest girl graduated from Lycoming College in basic Education; third oldest employed by Metro Bank; and the remainder still in school, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Alan & Judy Wood** have been volunteering with Life Water International, an NCO that provides training in hygiene, latrine construction, and pump repair to Laos and Ethiopia. **Alan** has also been rehired part time by NRCS to assist with engineering projects.

The summer was too hot and too dry says gardeners **Don & Shirley Lindsey**. They enjoyed a cruise to Alaska, visiting Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Glacier Bay. Then it was on to Anchorage to visit son **Scott** and family. Two of their grandchildren are off to college – **Ross Holland** to Penn State Mount Alto, and **Emily Lindsey** to the USC (Columbia, SC).

**Jeanette & Art Holland** recently returned from a 10 day tour of Egypt. They toured from Cairo, visiting the pyramids and riding

camels, flying to Aswan to check out the dam, a three hour bus trip one way across the desert to see Abu Simbel where a temple was moved from the flood plain, an engineering feat in its self. They had a cruise down to Nile to Luxor to see more temples and the Valley of the Kings. Then a five hour bus trip across the desert to the Red Sea at Hurghada, Egypt Resort, then fly back to Cairo. The hotels were first class, the people most hospitable, a once in a lifetime trip.

NRCS Assistant State Conservationist **Gary Smith** stopped at the Huntingdon FO and found the staff celebrating **Dick Howell's** 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Dick** was a conservation technician for 37 years in Huntingdon, retiring in 1994. **Dick** returned in January 2009 to the office in the ACES (older Employee) program. **Dick's** main job is training new employees in both technical matters and understanding how to work with rural folks. **Dick** says, " This job has given me an opportunity to reacquaint myself with the landowners I worked with for over 30 years and do what I always enjoyed, protecting our natural resources."

**Trish Peck** has moved to Ocean City, NJ (initial plans were to move to PA but as you know, plans change). Her little cottage by the sea is three blocks from the boardwalk and beach. She adds that she will spend the next 2-3 years in NJ, but still have plans to move back to PA.

On the road again was the theme of **Nevin & Judy Ulery**. In June, they traveled to Seattle for a granddaughter's graduation. Then **Nevin** went to WV on a mission trip with Heart & Hand House in Phillipi. It was off to Monument, CO for a wedding and visits to local attractions. After a few days in Colorado Springs, they were on to Montrose to visit **Nevin's** sister and tour local attractions including Silverton and old silver mines. They took a reticulated rock crawler up Mt Imogene to an elevation of 13,000 feet. The return trip included national parks where many moose, mountain goats and elk were seen. Winding their way home through WY, NE and IA, they arrived home to a lawn and garden needing attention.

**Frank & Jane Resides** took a spectacular trip to British Columbia and Alberta. (Ask **Frank** for the detailed report or read about it in the November/December issue of this Newsletter.) Also out west this fall were **Dale & Rose Marie Updegraff** who went to CO, joining **Laura & John Vescio**. **Laura** retired from the CO NRCS. They had lunch of 'rocky mountain oysters' and buffalo steaks at the Buckhorn Exchange, Denver's oldest restaurant. **Dale & Rosie** stopped in Vail to enjoy the leaves and flowers, instead of the snow they usually find when they visit. After a trip on the Durango & Silverton Railroad, they were on to Mesa Verde National Park to see the cliff dwellings. Other stops included great Sand Dunes National Park, Royal Gorge Bridge, and the U. of Colorado in Boulder.

Health problems kept **John & Ann Akers** at home. **Ann** had a detached retina in July which became detached again at the end of Aug. Slow recovery involved keeping her head down for the first five days. Then their daughter who lives in Richmond, VA developed three hernias. Insurance problems delayed the surgery until Oct. She works for the State of Virginia and was allowed to work from home during recovery. **John** says he doesn't remember SCS

ever offering that. Late in Sept., a small but powerful storm brought down half of their magnolia trees as well as other trees in the neighborhood. He was glad he had just bought a chipper for his tractor. He put it to good use as he helped clean up the neighborhood.

Remember **Doug Pease**? He is a native of Susquehanna County and a Penn State Graduate. He was a soil scientist in the Honesdale and Montrose FO's from 1956 – 1960. He transferred to NM due for health reasons. Over the next 17 years he worked as field SS, party leader, and Asst. State Soil Scientist. In 1977, **Doug** transferred to AZ as State SS. After retiring he taught at Grand Canyon U. **Doug** and his wife taught English in Hungary and Lithuania for seven years. They are active in church and Gideons International. In September, **Doug** took a misstep and fell backwards into their swimming pool, fracturing his right hip. He is now up and around with a walker and expects a full recovery.

**Carl & Rosalie Dupoldt** recently celebrated their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. **Rosalie** is doing craft shows and works with the ladies of the Knights of Columbus. Carl continues with Green Building Solutions & Supplies as well as numerous environmental, engineering and senior citizen programs. He recently visited the second largest solar operation in PA. The Aqua PA solar farm generates enough electricity to operate the Ingram Mill Water Treatment Plant.

The summer of 2010 for **Bill & Mary Ann Bowers** meant gardening, grandkids and golf (among others). **Bill** rated the garden “average” with the hot, dry weather causing problems for the tomatoes, beans, and peppers. Soaker hoses were the order of the season. The blueberries and red raspberries did very well and **Mary Ann** is enjoying the best sweet potatoes we have grown (they do love the heat). Grandkids **Emily** and **Ben** spent a couple of weeks with us and while **Ben** and **Bill** played golf, **Emily** and **Mary Ann** went shopping and did some baking. It was great to have them with us. This fall **Bill** is taking the Penn State Master Gardener program and is adding to his gardening, lawn, and orchard knowledge. He is looking forward to participating in some educational projects in 2011. They got to three Penn State football games (two wins) and the weather was beautiful. Thanksgiving will be at the **Bowers** house with all the family; they look forward to their time together.

From out TX way, **Pat Cecil** has been fighting health problems. After some disturbing mistakes, she found she had auto-immune hepatitis (not contagious). Slowly her liver has repaired itself. **Pat** thanks a positive attitude, prayers, and God and family and friend support. Her Air Force son is in Afghanistan for a year. She is caring for his chocolate lab dog. The dog is sweet and is assuring that **Pat** gets her exercise. The rest of the year brought happiness and sadness – happiness in the marriage of her youngest son and sadness in the loss of both of her parents in the past year, both in their 90's. She closes that she misses PA and looks forward to a trip back east.

**Larry Staley** did not get as much done this summer as usual. He got back from AZ too late to put in a garden – too dry

any way. The planned pond construction was delayed as no compactible moisture was found ten feet down. Sounds odd but his other pond overtopped – actually last winter. Contractor used a laser and still didn't get it right. **Larry** did it the hard way – he raised the dam by hand. His daughter's eight dogs did the compacting (dog-foot, not sheep's foot). **Larry** said it left unusual patterns on the dam. **Larry** is spending this winter in FL rather than AZ. Maybe AZ next year. He hopes to be south by Thanksgiving.

Our wandering nomads, **Harvey & Vickie Pinkerton**, report nothing happening at present!! However, they are getting ready to head South. They left the last week of Oct., stopped for a week in TN and then arrived at the Gainesville/Stark KOA about Nov 7. For those already in FL or coming down later, their phone is (814) 759-3492. He says give them a call and they will see what mischief they can cook up.

Remember **John Aker's** report on the hard storm, well, **Lee Bentz** has a report on it, too. Wind started to blow around 3:45 PM, power went out at 4:10. When the rain stopped they could not believe their eyes. The big (30”) hickory tree in the pasture across the road was down as were five of our 18” diameter pines in our windbreak fell, just missing the house. With power lines down, they fired up the generator until power returned late that night. All in all, **Lee** feels very lucky – no one hurt, no building damage, and cattle OK, but losing that old hickory tree was like losing a member of the family. **Lee** says it was the worst storm in the 33 years they lived there.

After a week of visiting Carol's sister in Ontario, **Fred & Carol Bubb** left NYC on a cruise of the Canadian Maritimes. Visits were made to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and final docking in Quebec City. They rented a car and drove back home via VT and NY, enjoying the fall colors.

**Don Lindsey** submitted an additional report just at deadline. **Don & Shirley Lindsey** visited **Alan & Deb Bennett** at their home in Muncy. **Allen** works part time in Lycoming County. **Don** was busy with the annual Pumpkin Festival. He said he was working like crazy and enjoying every moment of it. He is also the chief “GoFer” for the Littlestown Vet Hospital. The hospital added solar panels this Fall which provide half of their electrical needs. **Shirley** went to Salt Lake City on a genealogy trip. She got some good information, but not all she was looking for. They are off to Charleston, NC for Thanksgiving and a reunion with **Don's** siblings.

On Nov. 19, the Southeast PA Group met at the Simon-Pearce Restaurant in the Valley of the Brandywine. Those present were: **Len & Mary Beck, Bob & Nancy Escherman, Carolyn Gehlen, Howard Hall, Art & Jeanette Holland, Tom & Joyce livari, Dave & Paula Lorenz, Diane McMeanmin, Frank & Jane Resides, and Fred & Jane Schuetz.**

A good meal and a great time was enjoyed by all; as we ate, drank, and talked about the “Good Ole Days”. It was nice that the **Holland's** could be with us, all the way from SC. We hope to have a summer meeting again in 2011, probably at Roger's.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Mark Berkland, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Walter Early** reports that his second grandchild is on the way in March----he and his wife are fine and planning a big season on the farm next year----**Walter** invites everyone to come by and see him on the farm.

**Mary & Byron Thompson** continue to have fun with their grand son, **Jacob Kerwin** who some the SC retirees met at the Retirees' meeting in Florence last year. **Byron** was re-elected as President of the McCormick Co. Forestry Association for 2011. He was also re-elected to the McCormick School Board Trustee with the largest number of votes. **Niles Glasgow** and **Byron** were able to schedule a day to play golf and hope to continue as schedules permit. As of this date, we have not heard what their scores were.

**Bunny Anderson** was elected President of the South Carolina Association of RC&D Councils at their Dec. meeting. He was appointed to the Pee Dee RC&D Council in July 1995 by the Marlboro County Council and Marlboro S&WCD after retirement from USDA- NRCS as District Conservationist. He also was Scotland, North Carolina S&WCD Manager for eleven years. Both Soil and Water Conservation Districts won the Goodyear outstanding District award in each State with his leadership.

## **TEXAS (NORTH AREA)**

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

Twenty-two members and two guests were present for the October 15th, 2010 meeting and annual picnic: **Dennis Erinakes, Joe Nichols, Alex & Faye Alexander, Dorthy Green, Dave Drennan, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Bernelle Baxley, Elaine Davis, Dennis & Kathy Gaster, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Tom Hodges, Bonnie McKee, Earl Blakley, Richard Heizer, Harland & Anita Dietz, Ken & Judy Twitty**, and guests **Julia & Mischka Parr**. No formal program was presented as everyone enjoyed the excellent weather, visiting and picnic food, thanks to our grill master, **Dave Stockbridge**.

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the short business meeting. **Dave** appointed a nominating committee consisting of **Dave Stockbridge** as chair, **Bernie Owen**, and **Jere Rickman** to present the Slate of Officers to serve the SCS-NRCS Alumni Club in 2011. The Slate of Officers is to be published in the November newsletter. Officers will be elected at the November meeting and will be installed at the December meeting. **Elaine Davis** gave a financial report. Newsletter Editor **Bernie Owen** reported on a death in Lucille Chessmore's family (See Member News).

**Maxine Owen** encouraged Alumni Club Members to stay in contact with those members who can no longer attend the meetings. We also ask our members to let us know what is happening in their lives so we may continue to stay in touch.

The Slate of Officers for 2011 is: President – **Dave Drennan**; 1st Vice President – **Dennis Gaster**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – **Richard Heizer**; Secretary-Treasurer – **Elaine Davis**; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer – **Barbara Gillum**; Member Relations Leader (Caller Groups) – **Maxine Owen**; Member Relations Leader (Cards-Memorials) – **Del Rockenbaugh**; Newsletter Editor – **Jim Rickman**; Assistant Newsletter Editor – **Phil Delucchi**; Back-up editor – **Dave Stockbridge**; and Newsletter Distribution – **Don Kapalka**.

Correction to the October Newsletter: **Thelma Carlen** called to say she enjoyed reading the article about her long-time membership in the Alumni Club. She did want us to know her first husband's name was **Pet L. Crowley**, not **Ted** as we reported. We do appreciate **Thelma** for letting us know.

**Dave Drennan** encouraged veterans to write letters to soldiers who are deployed. He stood watch and is proud of it. **Bernie Owen** stated that the Arlington NARFE Chapter 1201 has a Meet & Greet the Troops once a month at DFW Airport. These are troops returning from deployment. **Dave Drennan** has the phone number to call if you are interested in participating in the Meet & Greet the Troops.

**Don Gohmert** circulated the following announcement on Oct. 26, 2010: "To all Texas employees, Today I announced my retirement at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. After 43 years of federal service, the time seems right. I have been so fortunate to have had a great career with SCS/NRCS. My family has always been my greatest supporter. The people I have worked with have always been the reason behind the successes I've enjoyed. When the Chief asked me to come to NHQ on detail, I told him I would serve at his pleasure for two months. After that, I would retire. He accepted the deal. So on October 31, 2010, I will no longer be your State Conservationist. I hope you will give Salvador Salinas your full support and respect as he assumes the duties of Acting State Conservationist. It has been my good fortune and distinct pleasure to work with you and for you. SWCD and RC&D employees are such great partner employees that I always felt no distinction between them and NRCS. I hope that partnership never changes. I will remember my three and a half years in Texas as some of the most enjoyable and rewarding. Thanks to each of you for making it possible. Good luck and God bless you all. **Don Gohmert**

**Carl Amonett**, NRCS employee at Blacklands Research Station, was killed in an auto-motorcycle accident on Oct. 16, 2010, in Temple, TX. (See IN MEMORIAM). Thank you to **Michael Bogard** for keeping us informed.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proud to announce the completion of its initial survey that identifies soil conditions in TX. To commemorate this historic event, representatives of the agencies and organizations involved with the Texas Cooperative Soil Survey hosted a "Last Acre" Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010 at Blackland Research and Extension Center, 720 East Blackland Road, Temple, TX. The public was invited

to attend. This is a tremendous milestone, not only for the NRCS but also for the state,” says **Dennis Williamson**, NRCS Texas State Soil Scientist. “Texas’ soil survey efforts began with a Reconnaissance Soil Survey in 1899. Since then, soil scientists have walked Texas landscapes digging holes and collecting information on nearly 1,300 different soil types in the state.” The availability of this information affords the opportunity to make sound educated decisions regarding land-use planning for everyone’s benefit. The “Last Acre” event featured soil scientists and soil displays representing the key agencies and organizations involved in the cooperative soil survey. The festivities also celebrated NRCS’ 75th anniversary. The USDA agency was established 75 years ago with a mission to help people help the land. “The soil survey of Texas is a perfect example of how much more can be accomplished with a cooperative effort,” said Williamson. “Without the superb cooperation of local, state and federal entities in Texas, our initial soil survey would be a long way from completion.”

Twenty-one members were present for the Nov. 19th, 2010 meeting: **Dennis Erinakes, Joe Nichols, Dorthy Green, Dave Drennan, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Elaine Davis, Dennis & Kathy Gaster, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Tom Hodges, Earl Blakley, Richard Heizer, Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh, Hugh & Sue Allcon, Jerald & Anita Plummer, and Joyce Petty. Elaine Davis & Earl Blakley** provided refreshments. No formal program was presented.

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. **Dave** reminded members that membership dues for 2011 become due in January. **Dave** also encouraged all to sign the attendance log, donate \$1 for use of the room, and fill out “News” sheets for the Newsletter Editor. **Elaine** reported on our financial balance. **Bernie** reported on additional planned retirements: **Terry Evans & Pat Gobel**. Each known retiree will be contacted personally and invited to our meetings.

**Maxine Owen** reported she had activated the caller group for the passing of **Harris (Red) Feathers**. **Del** reported she had sent a sympathy card to the **Feathers** family and a memorial will be sent to his family by **Elaine**.

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee in the Nov. Newsletter was voted into office by a unanimous vote of all members. Our officers for 2011 are: President: **Dave Drennan**; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Dennis Gaster**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Richard Heizer**; Secretary-Treasurer: **Elaine Davis**; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: **Barbara Gillum**; Member Relations Leader (Caller Groups): **Maxine Owen**; Member Relations Leader (Cards-Memorials): **Del Rockenbaugh**; Newsletter Editor: **Jim Rickman**; Assistant Newsletter Editor: **Phil Delucchi**; and Newsletter Distributor: **Don Kapalka**. Our new officers for 2011 will be installed at our Dec. meeting. Thank you to all who have worked to make our Alumni Club a success.

We are saddened to announce the sad news of the death of our long time member **Harris Feathers**, known to many as

**Red Feathers**, on Friday, November 12, 2010 at the age of 80. (See IN MEMORIAM).

**Dave Drennan** and son, **Mark**, traveled to OR in Oct. for their annual sports weekend. They went to the Oregon State University vs. Arizona State Univ. football game and the Oregon University vs. Stanford University football game. They visited the Baton Dunes Golf Course. They also visited Archery Summit, the top rated winery in OR. **Dave** reported his wife, **Jean**, is doing well with her heart problems. They are hosting the family for Christmas. **Dave & Jean** celebrated their 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary (41 years each) on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Dorthy Green** has sent off four boxes of necessities to deployed soldiers. Her family will all be together for Christmas. **Dorthy** was delighted that following the meeting she was going riding with her grandson and would be riding her newest horse for the first time.

**Tom Hodges** reported he has a new grand-daughter born Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. **Tom** said Blue Cross and Texas Health are having problems.

**Richard Heizer** reported his and **Sara’s** son and his wife **Aaron & Brittney Heizer** have been deployed to Guantanamo Bay, a detainment facility for enemy combatants for the United States that is located in Cuba. Both are members of the armed services and will be deployed for one year. **Aaron** has twice previously been deployed to Iraq.

**Earl Blakley** is planning on a trip out to Lubbock and hopes to see **Margie Christy**.

**Del & Rocky Rockenbaugh** have been in AZ recently. **Rocky** is planning on remembering **Del’s** birthday (Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>). **Del** said the grand-kids will host Christmas this year. **Dave & Barbara Stockbridge** celebrated 86 years (43 each) of marriage on Nov. 11, 2010. **Dave** is putting up Christmas lights this week. Their son **Greg** is coming to visit in Jan., but won’t be home for Christmas. **Dave** participated in the Turkey Trot run this year. They plan to go to their daughter’s for Thanksgiving.

**Dennis Erinakes** and his grandson, **Ethan**, will make two trips to the Coast to hunt geese – for Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Dennis** will spend the holidays with son **David** and family in Murphy, TX. The German Shepherds talked about last meeting have found a home in Fort Worth. **Dennis** won a new Remington 877 shotgun in a Delta Waterford raffle. **Dennis** has been working on developing GIS software for the Groundwater Conservation District. He distributed brochures from the Upper Trinity District on well registration.

We welcomed **Hugh & Sue Allcon** back at the Nov. meeting. **Hugh** plans to do some hunting around Christmas and **Sue** plans to stay close to home. **Dennis & Kathy Gaster** will spend Christmas with the family at home. **Dennis** went backpacking with the Boy Scouts to OK in November.

**Jerald & Anita Plummer** will be celebrating Thanksgiving at home. **Jerald** stated he was proud to be associated with our retirees group and the relationship we represent. They were somewhat concerned to learn their grandson had gone camping in 32 degree weather. They are pleased their daughter and her family, **Penny & Andy Fasco**, and grandchildren, **Warren** (age 11); **Derek** (age 5); and **Charlotte** (age 3) will be coming for a visit in Jan.

**Joyce Petty** plans to stay home for the holidays and cook. **Elaine Davis** said their family is getting together for Thanksgiving. They plan to fry a turkey at their home in Quitman. **Maxine Owen** reported she & **Bernie** went to an appliance store advertising a special Veteran's Day Sale to shop for a new microwave. They didn't find a microwave, but **Maxine** did win the drawing for a new 32" LCD television.

**Joe Nichols** reported that **Wes Fuchs'** Parkinson's disease has limited his ability to drive. **Joe** hopes **Wes** will be able to attend future meetings with him. **Bernie Owen** reported that **Don Newman** is still recovering from a broken foot (or something). **Don** is in a cast, and his Doctor is satisfied with his progress. He has no pain, but is tired of being on crutches. **Don** said his mother is doing quite well at 102. She is in a nursing home in San Antonio near **Don's** sister.

**Frank Richardson** was under the weather much of Nov., but is feeling much better now. He said he didn't have a fever, but coughing and congestion kept him close to home. His daughters had planned to take him out for his birthday on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, but he just wasn't up to it. He didn't miss out, however, as they are all going to Pappadeaux's for dinner on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. **Phil Delucchi** said he talked to **Lu Logan McCullough** on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. **Lu** said that **Buck** is still in the nursing home in Granbury with no idea how long he will be there.

**Margie Christie** wrote: "I have a new e-mail address: mac10lubb@yahoo.com. I would appreciate your letting everyone know about the change. It's been a really difficult year for me, but I'm on the mend and am looking forward to a much better 2011. Having 3 major surgeries in less than a year really set me back, but I'm feeling really well now. I hope to see you again next year, now that I'm able to make the trip. I hope all is well with you and I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and New Year.

**Glen Black** sent news regarding the death of **Billie G. Jackson**, 88, of Belton, TX on Thursday, November 18, 2010. (See IN MEMORIAM).

## WASHINGTON

**Jerry Richard, ARCSE Representative**  
*Email: glr52pdr@aol.com*

Attending the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> retiree luncheon were **Harry Riehle, Jud Melton, Bob Olson, Hans Krauss, Lennie Husa, Larry Edmonds, Jerry Richard, Ralph Schmidt, Ken Kaul, and Carl Vennes**. **Bob Olson** shared a written brochure by

**Lewis F. Kehne** titled "Fishing and Tinkering". For those who knew **Lu** in the 70's, will remember sitting around the lunch "round table" in Spokane and listening to **Lu** and others lead discussions about world events, work projects, inventions, fishing techniques, and other interesting topics. This was a group that packed lunches and **Lu's** comment was "A Picnic Every Day". **Lu** had invented a boat trailer attachment that facilitated launching a boat. Rather than retaining a patent attorney, **Lu** thought it could be done by the individual inventor. So for the next X number of years **Lu** kept us informed (at our luncheons) about the intricacies of how to patent an invention. And **Lu's** invention was finally patented on October 6, 1992. Incidentally **Lu's** son, **Jay Kehne**, recently retired, but working with a Conservation Group was featured in a newspaper article about a 504 acre conservation easement that keeps a Colville area ranch intact for the benefit of the family and the public. Part of the process comes from NRCS approving the application for conservation easement and partial funding from the Farm and Ranch Protection Program in the Farm Bill.

**Ralph Schmidt** and **Chuck Houston**, NV, plan to be in Belize in Jan., 2011 as part of a mission group. **Chuck** will be the Construction Manager to build a school building and **Ralph** will be a Medical Assistant for this volunteer 81 member Construction/Medical team. Both **Ralph** and **Chuck** were Engineers for NRCS prior to retirement. This will make eleven trips for **Ralph** and three trips for **Chuck** to do volunteer work in Belize.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

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

**Ruth & John Stierna** should be in New Zealand as you all read this. Their son and his family moved to Auckland last Sept. and this is their chance to visit this fascinating country--the land of the hobbits. Leading up to their travels, they have been studying up on the land and its culture. In other news, **John** will be assuming the position of vice chair of the Board of Trustees for Finlandia University on Jan. 1, 2011, having been a member of the Board for about ten years. Maybe that is the greater responsibility after receiving the University's "distinguished alumni award" last June. (No, the University does not have any connection to the vodka): If any of the SCS/NRCS retirees are open to contacting their members of Congress in support of conservation efforts during the coming farm bill, please let **John** know at [jstierna@farmland.org](mailto:jstierna@farmland.org). He will put them on a select e-mail list for information on developments and actions that can be very timely in defense of conservation.

**Warren & Barb Lee** are heading to AZ after Christmas and will be spending Jan. thru Apr. in Mesa.

**Jeanne & Neil Sampson** just returned from a 2-week visit to Australia -- something they have wanted to do for years. They spent several days in Sydney (great city) then rented a car and drove 2600 kilometers into the back country. As



you know, that doesn't get you very far in Australia, but they saw the Blue Mountains, the wine and farm country, and a good piece of the Outback. One night they stayed in a motel that was created in the rooms of a worked-out opal mine. That was different! They ended up in Melbourne with a trip along the Great Ocean Highway. So even though they only went through a small corner of the country, they saw a lot of different and very nice places and met a lot of nice people. **Neil** even got used to driving on the wrong side of the road after a while! The only problem was the darned turn signal. It was on the right of the steering wheel and the windshield wiper lever was on the left. He must have turned those wipers on 100 times trying to change lanes, etc. On another topic, **Neil** is very disappointed in the sales of *With One Voice*, the latest history of NACD and the conservation movement. He doesn't know if it's too expensive or if people just don't find that topic very interesting, or what. At any rate, it hasn't done much. That reminds me that I need to get my copy from NACD.

THINKING OF YOU  
From **Dick Arnold**

Counting blessings helps us recall our purpose  
    Cheerfully blending those of yesteryear and today  
Hope as a resilient personal dream holds us in gentle repose  
    Helping chase misdemeanors of words and actions  
    far away  
Reverence for environments and inhabitants world wide  
    Renews our innermost sense of decency and  
    respect  
Interests from long ago keeping kindness and respect side  
    by side  
    Involves our deepest emotions whose meanings  
    are not suspect  
Sustainability now has become an urgency, not a thought  
    Severely challenging the philosophical roots that  
    have led  
To global marketing strategies enriching some for naught  
    Towards environmental disasters over which tears  
    will be shed  
Modern technologies one by one amaze us all  
    Making generational disparities larger than 'ere  
    before  
Anxieties envelop us and questions try to forestall  
    Answers irrelevant that only computers can store.  
Sights and sounds, laughter and joy, hearts enriched with  
    love unconditional  
    Such are our wishes for you and you and you, now  
    and  
    Forevermore

**Joan Albertella** sends, "Nothing too exciting in the travel arena except visiting family in OH, KY, and KS which I enjoy. I am finishing up on an ACES project. I worked out of the Culpeper Service Center. For the New Year there will be

two milestones, I turn 70 (hard to believe) and I will become a great-grandmother. My oldest grand daughter **Lauren** is expecting, with baby due in June. Her husband is with the 101st in Afghanistan."

**Rich Duesterhaus's** son **Tom**, a creative writing teacher at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA was recognized recently by the University of Chicago as an outstanding educator and mentor. According to the University, awardees are teachers "who opened new vistas and realms of discovery, challenged students intellectually for the first time, or channeled their private interests into productive paths for intellectual growth." **Tom** recently published his first novel *The Loyal Treatment*. Congratulations **Tom & Rich**.

**John Miner** says "After spending 38 years in the Washington Metro area, namely northern VA, we decided to relocate. Our kids now approaching retirement age and have decided to move to the South, joining our youngest daughter **Kathy**. We will be located Blythewood, SC just across the Windermere golf course green from **Kathy** & family. Blythewood is a suburb of Columbia. While most retirees look forward to downsizing we are upsizing, in answer to that foolishness, I can only say we got a good deal. We move in to the new home Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, we hope! We had always wanted to move back to CA but our anchor, kids and grandkids, keep us on the East coast."

**John Peterson** was the winner of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) 2010 R.E. "Bobby" Wilkinson Award at the VASWCD annual meeting banquet in Roanoke, VA on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The award goes to a Virginia District Director who has furthered the effective implementation of the Association's policies and the achievement of its program objectives through their unselfish acts and dedication to soil and water conservation. **Peterson** is an elected Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), and is its vice-chair. **John** is not only on the No. VA SWCD Board, but is on the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) Board, and serves on its legislative committee. He also represents Virginia on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Board of Directors. He serves on a number of NACD committees; legislative, finance, urban and community conservation, farm bill task force, and the employee training and certification task force. He was nominated for the award by his colleagues with the Northern Virginia SWCD. Some folks never seem to retire.

**Lorraine & Jim Maetzold** have been enjoying retirement by traveling and taking care of grandchildren. They have Grandparented (otherwise moving into the house and taking the parents role) twice this summer. They feel very fortunate to share this time with the grand children. This summer and fall has been an opportunity to spend time at Lake Anna with the family with Grandpa watching over six grandchildren as they jumped off the dock and did other water tricks. We spent a weeks retreat at My Father's House in Moodus,

CT. In early Oct., they attended an ordination in St. Peters Basilica in Rome. This is an experience that is difficult to put into words. They spent another 7 days touring Rome churches with some dating back to 3rd century but built upon foundations dating to 4 century BC. Late Oct. found them in Myrtle Beach, SC at a time share. After Thanksgiving at their house with 12 guests, they journeyed to Gatlinburg, TN for a week of rest and enjoying the Christmas lights and plays. **Lorraine** has spent a considerable amount of time helping her friend who has suffered three strokes. She has been able to come to **Maetzold's** house and spend a couple of days between doctor appointments. Otherwise they are busy helping the community and attending grandchildren sport and talent events.

## VIRGINIA

**Rachel Hollins, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [rhollin@louisiana.net](mailto:rhollin@louisiana.net)

**Rachel Hollins** and daughter **Renee** took a trip to New York City Dec. 15-17. While on the bus they won tickets to see Regis and Kelly on Thursday. Right after the live show, the Friday show was taped and Robert DeNiro was a guest. It was very interesting to be involved in a live show and also to be there during the taping of segments for the following day. The remainder of the day on the 16th and on the 17th, they walked all over the area between 5th and 9th Avenues between 59th and 42nd streets. **Renee** got tired first. Wednesday night they saw Promises, Promises (hilarious), and on Thursday night they saw Million Dollar Quartet, which had wonderful music from the 50's. A great bonding experience since **Renee** has been busy raising 6 children over the past 22 years and has little time to get away alone with her mother.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [pegreesevw@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesevw@gmail.com)

**Ted Hanson**, Soil Conservation Technician, Lewisburg FO retired this summer. **Hanson (Duke) Kennedy**, Civil Engineering Technician, Phillipi FO and **Ernest Morgan**, Soil Conservation Technician, Franklin FO retired this fall. Retiring in early January are: **Stephen Carpenter**, State Soil Scientist and MO-13 Leader; **Debbie Chase**, GIS Specialist, State Office; and **Mike Gasper**, Mountain RC&D Coordinator, Oak Hill.

**Fred Lantz** passed away on Aug. 9, 2010. Read the "In Memoriam" section of the September/October issue of the ARCSE Newsletter for more details.

During a regular mammogram, **Shirley Austin**, was diagnosed with breast cancer. **Shirley** reported that "Since then, I have undergone surgery and eight weeks (5 days a week) of radiation. I am blessed that the prognosis is very good as the cancer was caught very early. The point of this story is for all

females to please get mammograms regularly." On a happier note, **Shirley** said "After a very long winter and the long cancer ordeal, it was great to do some travelling ie Lancaster, PA to Amish Country, a trip to New Boston, MI to visit relatives, a state conference at Jackson's Mill. So far life is good."

**Judy Fairbanks** writes that her 'almost' 97 year old mother, **Evelyn Barr** died on Dec. 13.

Twenty-four people attended the West Virginia Chapter's meeting of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) at the NRCS State Office on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. State Conservationist **Kevin Wickey** gave an overview of the extensive work done by NRCS during the past year. WV received more American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds than any other state. The \$35 million was used primarily on flood plain easements and other watershed work. The Soil Survey Staff is working to assess the level of organic matter in the soils in WV. The baseline inventory of soil organic matter will assist NRCS in developing and encouraging conservation practices that will increase soil organic matter. **Kevin** asked retirees for assistance with this endeavor as well as helping to feed the hungry through the "people's gardens" project. Many of these gardens are located at NRCS offices.

**Don Summers**, the President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) and former SCS employee, gave an overview of NARFE and their legislative initiatives. At the national level, NARFE is seeking parity between social security and federal employee benefits and defending the integrity of the federal retirement systems. In WV, NARFE is working with legislators to increase the tax exemption for retired federal employees. The Mountaineer Chapter meets at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Shoneys in Morgantown.

**Alan Staddon** gave a virtual tour of the Grand Canyon through a Powerpoint presentation called "The Grand Canyon: From the Bottom Up." The beauty of the Canyon shone in the presentation.

During the business meeting, **Jim Clevenger** and **Shirley Jordan** volunteered to organize next year's meeting and **Peg Reese** was re-elected as president. Lunch at Madelines restaurant was the final event of the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were: **Gordon Bayles, Dave & Patty Burns, Charlotte Elliott-Friend, Bill Hatfield, Elaine & Russell Hayhurst, Gene & Jennie Kessel, Dick & Annette Judy, Orland & Patty Parks, Roseanne Kennedy, Peg Reese, Lynn Shutts, Glenda Summers, and Rollin & Helen Swank.**

New e-mail addresses:

**Sam Sheets** - [ssheets46@hotmail.com](mailto:ssheets46@hotmail.com)

**Bill and Janice Hatfield** – [fieldj@windstream.net](mailto:fieldj@windstream.net)

**Don and Jane Wood** – [dandjw@frontier.com](mailto:dandjw@frontier.com)

## WISCONSIN

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

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch at the Altoona family Restaurant on October 14th. Tim Meyer was the gracious host. Those in attendance included **Mike & Donna Smith, Bob Henrich, Del Thomas, Harland Nelson, Larry Natzke, and Tim Meyer**, Eau Claire; **Norb Wozniak**, Stevens Point; **Ed Weber**, Webster; **Deone Goettl**, Cornell; **Roger Dahl**, Chippewa Falls; **Lyle Catheart**, Marshfield; **Dave Vold**, Spooner; **Kathy & Louie Barber**, Beldenville; **Steve Rake, Bob & Jeannine Uhrig**, Black River Falls; **Dale & Rita Jakel**, Barron; **Jerry Thompson**, Cleghorn; **Keith & Dottie Behling**, Richland Center; **Steve Price**, Spring Valley; **Vic Price**, Fall Creek; **Roman & Bea Statz**, Baraboo; and **Ryan Galbreath** and **Judy Derricks** from the Altoona NRCS office.

The next luncheon is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2011 at Fitzgerald's Restaurant in Middleton.

### NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

We welcome eight new Senior Conservationists since the last newsletter. They have reached the minimum age of 83 years of age and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations!

Their names and home states follow:

**Malvern W. ("Mook") Allen, Illinois**

**Robert W. Belcher, Florida**

**Deane S. Glen, Iowa**

**Linwood S. Holmquist, Maine**

**V. Lennie Husa, Washington**

**Don Long, Illinois**

**Earl E. Voss, Illinois**

**Robert M. Kirby, North Carolina**

The Senior Conservationists who left us since the last Newsletter were:

**Edgar Garrison, Louisiana**

**Robert C. Baum, Oregon**

**Forest ("Forey") Miller, Oregon**

**Frank Z. Hutton, Jr., New York**

*Help us identify retirees who should be designated Senior Conservationists. Provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.*

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

*Marc Safley, Chronicler*

**Senior Conservationist Mook Allen** was born April 7, 1927, in Wood River, Illinois. (Wood River is about 20 miles from Saint Louis, MO, on the Mississippi River.) **Mook** was educated in local schools.

He was drafted late in WWII and was in training for the Pacific Theater (specifically the invasion of Japan) when he was given the opportunity to learn Japanese and become an interpreter/interrogator. He was honorably discharged in 1946. At the recommendation of his brother, **Bill**, he entered the University of Illinois where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1950. He worked for a while for Standard Oil, but his heart was elsewhere. In 1952 he became a W.A.E. Engineer with SCS, a position he held for three years. During that time he married; he and **Helen** were married September 12, 1953. In 1956 he joined McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corporation as an engineer on the Mercury and Gemini Space Project where he worked until 1968. Following that experience he rejoined SCS as an engineer. He was Area Engineer for Area 6 in Illinois from 1969 to 1982; he was Environmental Engineer at the Northeast NTC from 1983 to 1987. He then moved to the same position at the Midwest NTC, Lincoln, NE, until his retirement December 31, 1989. He worked following retirement in the Environmental Management Systems area of the Pork Producers.

Since retirement he also has continued active involvement in his church (where among other contributions he sings bass in the choir); he continues to be an active member of the American Legion (60-plus year member) where he serves as Post Service Officer and Americanism Chairman; he is President of his local chapter and Illinois District 1 Vice-President of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He has served as an EMT and worked as an ambulance driver for the Bunker Hill (IL) Area Ambulance Service. He has been a volunteer with the Boy Scout Program for over 20 years. He enjoys woodworking and gardening in his spare time.

**Mook** and **Helen** reside at 419 N. East Street, Bunker Hill, Illinois, about 20 miles north of Saint Louis. They have seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. **Mook** writes that "I had the opportunity to meet and become friends with many very dedicated, wonderful people during my years with SCS." In his typically modest manner he also wrote that "...any honors I may have received were earned as a team member."



## IN MEMORIAM

**Donald L. "Don" Perfect** (82) of Sunbury, OH passed away on Oct. 30, 2010. He was a retired soil conservationist for Morrow County with 30 years of service and a US Marine Corps Veteran. **Don** is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Jeannette (Stone) Perfect**; daughters: **Beverly Perfect** of Hilton Head, SC and **Carla Perfect** of Fountain Hills, AZ.

**Jane A. Redmond** (69) of Fredericktown, OH, passed away on Nov. 2, 2010 at her home. She is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, **Charles Edward "Doc" Redmond**, who retired as a soil scientist with NRCS in 2004 with over 50 years of service. Survivors also include three daughters, and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Station Break Meals on Wheels, 501 South Main Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 or Hospice of Knox County. **Doc's** mailing address is 18865 Ankenytown Road, Fredericktown, OH 43019.

**Robert Franklin Jones** (83) of Marietta, OH passed away on Oct. 28, 2010 at his home. He was a 1949 graduate of The Ohio State University, College of Agriculture. He retired from the SCS in July 1987 after nearly 40 years of service. In recognition of his accomplishments in "the field", he received the "Agriculturalist of the Year" award in 1987. **Bob** had been an active member of the Marietta Civitan Club since 1962. Since 2006, he was a proud volunteer at Marietta Memorial Hospital with over 2,000 hours of service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Jean Proctor Jones**; one son, **Richard Jones (Robbi)** of York, SC; three daughters, **Mary Anne Guinn (Frank)**, **Barbara Peery (Brady)**, and **Carol Jones**, all of Marietta; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

**Jerry Vizena** (67) passed away on Nov. 26, 2009. **Jerry** was the District Conservationist with SCS in Oberlin, LA. He was a United States Air Force Veteran. He is survived by his wife **Glenda**.

**Leonard Martin** (80) passed away Jan. 6, 2010. **Leonard** was the District Conservationist with SCS in the West Monroe Field Office, West Monroe, LA. He retired in June 1988.

**Senior Conservationist Edgar Garrison** (86) of Sicily Island, LA passed away on April 1, 2010. He was an engineer with SCS in Thibodaux, LA, retiring in January 1979. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. **Edgar** founded the Sicily Island Skating Rink, which he owned and operated for many years. His passion in life was fishing and flying his plane. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Augustine Guice Garrison**. Survivors include daughters-**Sharon (Casey) Weeks** of Sicily Island, LA and **Donna (Steve) Thornhill** of Monterey, LA; a son, **Gene A. (Stephanie) Garrison** of Thibodaux, LA; six grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Old Pine Hill Cemetery Fund at Sicily Island State Bank.

**Clyde Larry Butler** (72) passed away April 14, 2010. **Larry** was a soil scientist with SCS in the Jonesboro Field Office, Jonesboro, LA. He retired in February 1988.

**Louis Hamilton** (67) passed away on July 17, 2010. **Louis** was a conservation technician with SCS in the Winnsboro Field Office, Winnsboro, LA. He retired in August 2002.

**T. D. Prestridge** (84) passed away on Aug. 23, 2010. **T. D.** was an engineer with SCS on the Watershed Planning Staff in the Alexandria, LA State Office. He retired in January 1983.

**Leroy Willie** (96) of Baton Rouge, LA passed away on Sept. 11, 2010. **Leroy** was an RC&D Coordinator with SCS in the Baton Rouge Area Office. He retired in December 1976.

**Senior Conservationist Robert Combs Baum** (85) of Salem, OR passed away on Oct. 20, 2010 after battling a recurrence of cancer. After graduating as valedictorian at Union High School, he entered the Navy for 2 1/2 years, training as a naval air cadet. Following the end of WWII, **Robert** enrolled at Oregon State College (now University) where he earned a degree in Agricultural Economics. Over the years he sang and yodeled at many family occasions as well as many conferences and community events. **Robert** worked 41 years in the field of soil and water conservation, including 19 years as Director of the Oregon State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and 20 years as Pacific Region Representative of the National Association of Conservation Districts, covering seven states. Among other honors, he was awarded the American Motors National Conservation Award and the Distinguished Service Award of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. **Robert** was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, **Phyllis** in 2006. He is survived by his daughters, **Bonnie Finley (Mike)** of Prineville, **Susan Ziolko (Mike)** of Oregon City, and **Michele Gwinup (Michael)** of Bend; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. Visit [www.bobbaum.com](http://www.bobbaum.com) for details and to share memories.

**J. C. Waller** (88) of Clinton, OK passed away on Aug. 10, 2010. **J.C.** worked for the SCS for 44 years, retiring in 1985. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, **Mittie**; two sons **J. C. (Patti) Waller, Jr.** of Dewey, OK and **Rodney Dirk Waller** of Plano, TX; one daughter **Betty Jo Wohl** of Tulsa, OK; five grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

**Sham H. Coppinger** (73) of Claremore, OK passed away on Dec. 3, 2008. He retired from the SCS.

**Tommy Gray** (71) of Walters, OK passed away on May 5, 2010. He retired from the SCS.

## IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

**Ina Lavada Moffatt** (77) of Edmond, OK passed away on June 4, 2010. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Hamilton Harold Moffatt** who retired as a soil scientist with the SCS in 1990. She is survived by their three children; four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to Hearts for Hearing or Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

**Patrick Ivan Bogart** (62) of Henryetta, OK, passed away on Oct. 3, 2010. After graduation from Oklahoma State University in 1975 with a degree in forestry, **Patrick** worked for the SCS until his retirement in 2001, having served as the District Conservationist in Henryetta, OK since 1979. He also earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. He is survived by his father, **Lowell E. Bogart** of Port Townsend, WA; his son, **Christopher I. Bogart** of Oakland, CA; his daughter **Valisha K. Bogart** of San Diego, CA; and his wife **Diana L. Bogart**.

**Newman Hicks** (90) of Blackwell, OK passed away on Oct. 7, 2010. He attended Carnegie Junior College and Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He served in the United States Navy as a Chief Petty Officer during World War II. Following his discharge in December of 1946 he returned to the family farm near Carnegie. He later began working for the SCS as a soil conservation technician, retiring in 1988. His wife of 53 years, **LaWauna**, preceded him in death. He is survived by two daughters, **Sandra Inmon** of Blackwell, OK, and **Stephanie Hicks** of Denton, TX; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

**Senior Conservationist Forest 'Forey' Miller** (83) passed away quietly on Nov. 21, 2010, at his home in Salem, OR. After high school graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After his discharge in 1947, he earned a degree in engineering from Oregon State College (now University). After graduation in 1953, **Forey** began a career with the USDA SCS, which lasted 30 years. As an avid outdoorsman, he was instrumental in starting the Portland Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, where he was a life member. He is survived by his wife **Rosey** and her family; his son, **Scott (Glynda) Miller** and daughter **Macie (Ed) Brightman**; three grandchildren, and six great granddaughters. **Forey** was preceded in death by his first wife, **Arlene** (2009); and son, **Marty**. In lieu of flowers, he requested that remembrances be made to Willamette Valley Hospice, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, or the charity of your choice.

**Walter E. Fournier** (84) of Sinclair, ME passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 3, 2010 after a short fight with cancer. **Walt** was the SCS technician in the Northern Aroostook Field Office in Maine, retiring after 30 years. He served in the Philippines during World War II, 1944-1946. **Walter's** last request was that any donations be made to a charity of your choice or to Edgar J. Paradis Cancer Foundation, Fort Kent, ME 04743.

**Samuel F. Lehman** (82), formerly of Greeneville, OH, passed away on Nov. 23, 2010. **Sam** was the soil survey party leader for the Miami, Shelby, and Darke County soil surveys. He later served as the Area 4 resource soil scientist before retiring in the 1986. He had suffered from Alzheimer's Disease for several years. He is survived by **Helen Lehman** (his wife of 52 years) and their two sons currently living in the Columbus area. Contributions may be made to the Oakland Church of the Brethren, Oakland, OH.

**Ralph E. Matticks** (85) passed away on Nov. 30, 2010, at his home in Lebanon, PA. He was a veteran of the 517 Army Airborne serving as a medic in European African Middle Eastern Theatre during WWII and was a recipient of a Bronze Star. He obtained his B.S. in Forestry from Penn State University in 1950 and served with the USDA SCS, retiring in 1980 as an area conservationist. Surviving are wife, **Jean W. Matticks** of Lebanon; daughters, **Janice (Timothy) Mulac** of Lebanon, and **Margaret Miller** of Hershey; son, **Thomas (Elaine) Matticks** of Clarion; five granddaughters; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled Veterans Association, 6285 Pearl Road, Suite #7, Parma Heights, OH 44130.

**William P. (Bill) Oemichen** (83) of Oak Park Heights, MN, passed away on Nov. 9, 2010. He is survived by his children, **Beth, William L., Mike, Brett,** and **Mark** and eight grandchildren. **Bill** worked for SCS, for 32 years, retiring in 1981. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Corps in 1946, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science in 1949 from the University of Minnesota, which later honored him as a distinguished alumnus. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Jean Determan Oemichen** in 1954, and by his second wife, **Lucylee Conger Oemichen** in May 2010, as well as grandson, **Matthew Oemichen**, in 1998.

**Max D. Dominick** (75) of Stillwater, OK passed away on Dec. 7, 2010. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on his mother's side and was descended from great grandparents, six generations ago, who had taken the "Long Walk" from their Mississippi homeland (Okla Hannalli Ikksa) and arrived in Indian Territory in 1831. On his father's side he was descended from German immigrants who were South Carolina Patriots in the Revolutionary War. **Max** graduated from Eastern Junior College with an Associate Degree in engineering (1955) and in 1958 he graduated with a BS in Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma A&M. A second generation employee of SCS, he served as an Area Engineer and Project Engineer in various locations in OK prior to retiring in 1990 as Construction Engineer for the SCS State Office in Stillwater. He worked on over 200 flood control dams in OK. **Max** was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, **Mary Ellen Guest Dominick** in 2002. He is survived by sons **M. Darrel (Gwyn) Dominick** (former STC in OK) and **Don T. (Kathy) Dominick**, both of Stillwater; and five grandchildren. The family requests donations to the Stillwater Medical Foundation, Salvation Army, or charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

**Joan Brant Wolfe** (53) of Fort Worth, TX passed away Dec. 25, 2010. She worked for the SCS as a cartographer. She is survived by her husband, **Ted Wolfe** and brother, **Chuck Brant**.

## IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

**Ruth Lorraine (Madsen) Wacker Kuder** (82) passed away on Nov. 25, 2010 in Savoy, IL. Her husband **Homer Kuder** retired as the Assistant State Resource Conservationist from the SCS state office in Champaign in 1976. **Ruth** is survived by her husband, two children, four stepchildren, 14 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband, **Merle E. Wacker**. She was a hairdresser and stylist and homemaker. Being part of the Tremont High Marching Band was one of her most cherished memories. She and **Homer** traveled the world together. Memorials may be made to University Place Christian Church, 4035 Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820, or St. Joseph-Ogden High School Music Department, 301 N. Main St., P.O. Box 890, St. Joseph, IL 61873.

**Honorary Senior Conservationist Frank Z. Hutton Jr.** (95) of Auburn, NY passed away on Nov. 6, 2010. He was a second generation soil conservationist. His father, **Frank Z. Hutton Sr.**, was also in the SCS. Both **Huttons** graduated from Penn State University in Forestry (in 1937 and 1912 respectively) and specialized in mapping the soils. **Frank Jr.** started his career with SCS and the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) in 1938 in SC and then NY. He retired from the SCS in 1974 but immediately started work for Cornell University on soil projects in St. Lawrence County, finally retiring in 1980. **Frank, Jr.** was featured in an NCSS article in August 11, 2005 authored by **Tyrone Goddard** and **Fred Gilbert**. He was again featured in a Spring 2007 article published by the Cayuga County [NY] Natural Resource Building where they referred to **Frank** as the "Sultan of Soils." **Frank** is survived by his five children, **Maurice (Bonnie) Hutton**, of Niceville, FL., **Marlin (Suzanne) Hutton**, of Auburn, **Cheryl Heyen**, of Toledo, OH, **Cynthia (Douglas) Wright**, of Red Creek, and **Candace (Robert) Carter**, of Fleet, England, 11 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Donations in memory of **Frank** may be made to the Weedsport First United Methodist Church, 2744 E. Brutus St., Weedsport, NY 13166 or the Weedsport Fire & Rescue, 8892 South St., Weedsport, NY 13166.

**Ken Pritchett** (72) of Buchanan Dam, TX passed away on Dec. 4, 2010. He was retired from the USDA SCS where he had served for many years as a technician on the TX watershed staff in Waco and later on the TX design staff. Survivors include his wife, **Sherry Elder Pritchett**; two sons, **Mitch Pritchett** of Abilene and **Forrest Pritchett** of Weatherford; and three grandchildren.

**Donald Francis Jones** (83) of Billings, MT passed away on Nov. 6, 2010. After graduating from high school, he served in the Navy for a short period and later graduated from Montana State College with a B.S. in 1951 and a M.S. in 1957 both in Agricultural Economics. After teaching at Colorado State University, he worked for the SCS in Portland, OR, Washington, DC, Bozeman, MT, and US AID in India and Pakistan, retiring in 1986. He is survived by his wife, **Jane**; children, **Cindy (Greg) Ondrak**, Missoula, **Connie Jones**, Salinas, Calif., and **Casey Jones (Reed Kroloff)** Washington, DC; three step children, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Margaret Vogel Jones**, in 1974. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Special K Ranch, PO Box 479, Columbus, MT 59019 or the charity of your choice.

**Maurice Lee Watson** (85) of Hagerstown, MD passed away on Oct. 9, 2010. He was drafted right out of high school into the Army and assigned to the Army Air Corp. **Maurice** was stationed overseas in England with the 8th Air Force, 458th Bomb Group, where he flew 28 combat missions over Germany and other countries, in a B-24 Bomber. In March 2005, the people of the hamlet of Ferrieres, France honored him and his crew to express their gratitude for their service to their country. After his discharge from the Army, he briefly attended Loyola College in Baltimore. He was employed for 32 years with the USDA SCS retiring in 1980 as a contract specialist. **Maurice** is survived by his wife of 60 years **Jean Elizabeth Mosier Watson**; one daughter, **Julia O'Conor Watson (William) Burgin** of Purcellville, VA; and one grandson. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Middleburg Academy, 35321 Notre Dame Lane, Middleburg, Virginia 20117.

**Charles L. Herman** (88), a longtime resident of Alma, KS, passed away on Dec. 19, 2010 in Emporia. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Charlotte Finley Herman**, in 1993. He is survived by his wife **Carol Herman** of the home. **Charles** worked as an SCS Technician until his retirement in 1981. Memorials are suggested to Holy Family Catholic Church and may be left in care of the Stewart Funeral Home of Alma, PO Box 126, Alma, KS 66401.

**Thomas Richard Leathers** (95) of Lexington formerly of Campbellsville, KY passed away on Dec. 17, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife **Pearl Cole Leathers**. He received a B.S. Degree from the University of Kentucky in 1949. During W.W. II, **Tom** served as a field medic in the U.S. Army. After 30 years as a soil scientist, he retired from the SCS in 1980. He is survived by three daughters, **Judy (David) Hoagland** and **Mary Jo Leathers** of Lexington, and **Betty (Larry) Skaggs** of Spring Hill, FL; four grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Memorials are suggested to the Taylor County Public Library, 205 N. Columbia Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**Robert L. "Bob" Ferguson** (82) of Lafayette, LA passed away Nov. 22, 2010. **Bob** graduated from Oklahoma A & M, now Oklahoma State University. He was a proud veteran, having served in the 90th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing of the U.S. Air Force. **Bob** was an Agricultural Economist with the SCS. He is survived by his beloved wife **Pat Trimble Ferguson**, of Lafayette; two sons; eight grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son. Memorials may be made in **Mr. Ferguson's** name to Hospice of Acadiana, 2600 Johnston St., Ste. 200, Lafayette, LA, 70503.

**Harris "Red" Feathers** (80) passed away on Nov. 12, 2010 at the age of 80. **Harris** was born in Altoona, PA in 1930. He worked for the SCS for 42 years. After his retirement he worked for the Convention and Visitors Bureau and enjoyed his work there very much. Survivors include his wife, **Sally** and daughter, **Kathy** and family.



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### **IN MEMORIAM** (CONTINUED)

**Donald J. Jahn** (85) of Pierson, IA passed away Nov. 14, 2010. After graduating from high school in 1943, he joined the U.S. Navy as a radioman third class on the USS New Orleans and served until April 1946. Don retired from the Sioux City office as a Civil Engineering Technician, a number of years ago with 40 years of service. He is survived by his wife, **Betty**, of 59 years, five children, and eight grandchildren.

**Patty Jo Overhults** (67) passed away on Dec. 27, 2010 after an extended struggle with multiple sclerosis. She was a graduate of the University of Kentucky in 1965 with a BS Degree in Home Economics and in 1969 with a MA Degree in Special Education. **Patty Jo** is survived by her husband of 41 years, **Kenneth Overhults** who retired as the resource conservationist in KY in 1994 and is now the ARCSE representative for KY. She is also survived by two children, **Marcia (Tim) Watts** and **Joseph (Amber) Overhults**, and a granddaughter. Memorial gifts may be made to NARFE Alzheimer's Research and sent to Chapter 97 Alzheimer's Chair, Phyllis Tackett, 976 Fredericksburg Road, Lexington, KY 40504, or Porter Memorial Baptist Church building fund, 4300 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

**Warren F. Elliott** (64) passed away suddenly on Oct. 27, 2010, at his home in Columbia, MO. **Warren** had served as a contract specialist for the SCS in the Missouri state office. He held many jobs in his life, but found his real calling as the Machens Toyota courtesy van driver. He loved music, and shared his infectious enthusiasm for it as a member of several local bands. Among those left behind are his wife, **Patricia**; daughters, **Dianne** and **Rebecca**; and two granddaughters. A music scholarship is being established in his name.

**Carl Amonett** (54), NRCS employee at Blackland Research Station, was killed in an auto-motorcycle accident on Oct. 16, 2010, in Temple, TX. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a master's degree in forestry. In 1982 he began his career as soil conservationist in Kountze, TX. From 1987 to 2000, he worked in Center as a district conservationist. From 2000 on, he worked in Temple for Blackland Research as a member of the Water Resources Assessment Team at Blackland. He served more than 28 years with the government in agricultural soil care. Survivors include his wife, **Sharon Russell Amonett** of Academy; a son, **Christopher Amonett** of Dallas; and two daughters, **Stacy Amonett** of Denton and **Sarah Amonett** of Academy.

**Glenn Hugh Lawson** (60) of Blanket, TX passed away on Oct. 22, 2010. He graduated from Texas Tech and received his master's degree from Sul Ross. **Glenn** taught agriculture at Socorro and then at Robert Lee. He went to work for the USDA SCS, retiring in 2005. Survivors include his son, **Craig (Kammi) Lawson** of Blanket; and two grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to First Baptist Church of Garden City, P.O. Box 292, Garden City, TX 79739.

**Billie G. Jackson** (88) of Belton, TX passed away on Nov. 18, 2010. He was a World War II, U.S. Navy veteran. He worked for the SCS. Survivors include his wife of 63 years **Irene Whitson Jackson** of Belton; a son, **Tommy Jackson** of Marlin, TX; two daughters, **Beverly Drake** of Belton and **Linda Hopkins** of Austin; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**John A. Hamlett** (97) of Covington, VA passed away at his home on Aug. 25, 2010. During World War II, he served in the United States Army Air Corp and later in the United States Air Force, and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve. **John** also retired from the SCS where he worked as a Soil Conservationist. He was preceded in death by his wife **Lois**. The family suggests memorial tributes take the form of contributions to Mountain Regional Hospice Volunteers, PO Box 637, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 or to the Alleghany Humane Society, 304 Karnes Road, Low Moor, VA 24457.