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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter For Retired SCS And NRCS Employees

Vol. 38, No. 4

July/August 2011

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*Lennie Losh*

**Budget Year 2012** - The House adopted, on April 15, Concurrent Resolution 34, Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, authored by Budget Committee Chairman, Rep. Ryan, R-WI. The Resolution would reduce spending by \$4.4 trillion over 10 years. This is the opening shot addressing the U.S. debt and the Affordable Care Act. So far, the Senate has not chosen to act on the Resolution.

**Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture** - The House of Representatives Appropriation Committee approved a \$125 Billion Agriculture Appropriation Bill (H.R. 2112). NRCS Conservation Programs were reduced significantly; Conservation Stewardship by \$210 million and EQIP by \$350 million. H.R. 2112 will now move to the Senate where the Democrats will likely have different priorities and budget goals.

**Possibility for 2012 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)** - An adjustment for federal annuitants in 2012 depends on whether the (CPI-W) for the third quarter (July, August, September) of 2011 is higher than the highest previous third quarter, which occurred in 2008. The CPI-W for April 2011 was 2.9% above the 2008 third quarter average. If the 2.9% remains unchanged through the third quarter this year, it will result in a 2.9% COLA for federal annuitants.

**IRA Custodial Agreements** - Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) Custodian Agreements, either Traditional or Roth, may be more restrictive than Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. Read carefully the terms and conditions in this document binding you or you or your beneficiaries. For example, does the Agreement permit your designated beneficiaries to stretch the IRA distribution over his or her life expectancy, as permitted by IRS?

**Reflective of a wonderful 22 year old male: Active college student, a supportive part-time job, and adoptive father caring for nieces two and four years old. His Thought – “They look at me for everything, I look at them and see everything “**

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Tom Badger, President*

It is with a wee bit of sadness that I sit at the computer to write this final chapter for the ARCSE Newsletter. It has been a wonderful experience serving as your President and one I will never forget. Last Friday night, **Elaine** and I traveled to Salina, KS for the Kansas meeting of SCS/NRCS retirees. It was a very well attended meeting and it seems every time we go, we get better acquainted with old friends. It is so easy to go to a meeting like this and sit with the same people year after year. What a sad thing that is because we have so many similar experiences, but everyone we get better acquainted with, the deeper the friendship.

In July, **Mark Berkland** will be taking over the reins of the organization will be in good hands. There are so many great members willing to help, that the President could be considered to be a figurehead, but I know **Mark** will take charge immediately and continue to lead us.

As a final comment, I want to thank our Secretary/Treasurer **Ron Marlow** for everything he has done these past two years to offer guidance, support and a listening ear. **Ron** continues to do his job with the same professionalism that we have come to expect. Again **Ron**, thank you.

## ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

*Ron Marlow*

I want to welcome two new state representatives on board. Upon **John Titchner's** retirement as the Representative for Vermont, I am pleased to report that **Fran Keeler**, retired State Conservationist for Vermont, has agreed to replace **John**. I am also pleased to report that **Tom Drewes**, retired State Conservationist for New Jersey, has agreed to replace **Thornton Hole** who has retired as the Representative for that state. The Board extends its thanks to both **John** and **Thornton** for their service to the ARCSE and the retirees of Vermont and New Jersey, respectively.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Mike Nethery*

There has been some interest expressed about having the Newsletter available electronically. Please give me feedback to the following question: Would you like to receive the Newsletter by electronic means instead of by printed copy? If yes, in what format (PDF, Word, etc)? Send me your thoughts at [editormike@digis.net](mailto:editormike@digis.net).

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEP/OCT 2011  
NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 25**

## 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

## IDAHO

**Stan Hobson, ARCSE Representative**

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May 26th was the last luncheon until Sept. for our group. We had 16 folks join us in wishing each other and the rest of the retirees an enjoyable summer (additionally hoping summer comes yet). We have had some unusual waterfalls this spring with a few rivers running high what with snowmelt and rain, but in the west we never complain about heaven sent moisture.

The **Icenhower's** joined us for lunch after some months of travel - Boston in winter and Hawaii more recently and a bout with pneumonia. We have had several with that malady this spring including **Paul Malone** but all seem to be on the mend at this time.

Other couples in attendance were the **Gallup's, Garrison's, Chrisman's**, and the **Hobson's**. We were glad to have **Ruth Garrison** with us after missing last month.

We also welcomed **Jerry Larson** back from his absences, sans **Carol**. **Sharon Norris, Kent Foster, Frank Fink, Jim Cornwell**, and **Wayne Faude** made up the singles with us. We had invited the STC to join us and bring us up to date with NRCS happenings but he had a family affair requiring his attention. We'll try to reschedule him next fall.

We in Idaho wish the very best for all our retired friends around the country and hope each has a happy and healthful summer. Until fall, keep smiling.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees held their Annual Meeting on June 17, 2011, at Martinelli's Little Italy in Salina, KS. We gathered mid-afternoon to visit and

reminisce. After dinner representatives from ARCSE and NARFE gave brief reports. **Eric Banks**, NRCS State Conservationist, related news about current happenings in KS; status of present employees which includes a number eligible to retire, consolidation of administrative functions to a regional office, getting the work done through cooperative agreements, ACES, student trainees, and the ET Volunteer program. He also highlighted some of our current programs and initiatives. Before adjourning, a short business meeting and memorial service were held. In attendance were **Mike Ahern, Nova Atwood & Rena Ryan, Tom & Elaine Badger, Harold & Sandi Compton, Don Cooper, Arlie & Dorothy Cox, Duane Evans, Bill & Helen Foerschler and granddaughter, Jim & Lorraine Gaskell, Bob & Dorothy Gerdes, Jean Hamilton, George & Charlene Jorgensen, Jerry Lee, Deanne & Ron Lull, Ruby McBee, Dale McClaskey, John & Linda Ourada, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Loren & Darlene Pearson, JD Rector, John & Judy Reh, Bill & De Roth, Robert & Carolyn Roth, Ken & Betty Sallee, Malcom Strom, Jerry & Sharon Schuetz, Eldon & Betty Schwant, Bob & Glennis Trecek, and Lawrence & Phyllis Wetter.**

Kansas was honored when **Tracey Martin**, the NRCS Earth Team volunteer coordinator for the state office, was awarded the national Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator Award given annually to the person named the best NRCS volunteer manager in the United States. Over the past several years retirees have contributed 344 hours in the state office through the Earth Team Program by traveling to the west coast to pick up vehicles, assisting public affairs staff each year with assembling state fair materials, and helping with other clerical duties as needed.

Three have joined our retiree ranks this spring. They are **Bobby D. Tricks**, MLRA Soil Survey Leader, located in Hays; and from area office technical staffs **Craig T. Scheuerman**, Civil Engineering Technician, Hays; and **Lyle A. Kohlmeier**, Resource Conservationist, Emporia.

There's no place like home! **Tom** (former area conservationist at Manhattan, KS) and **Elaine Badger** are living on a three-acre farm where **Tom** was born and raised. A new home was built within ten feet of the house that his father and mother built in 1948. **Tom** reports that life on the farm is good and that he even gets to help his nephews farm when they think he can be trusted with the equipment. **Tom & Elaine** have also joined the Methodist church that they both attended before leaving to continue their educations and where they were married almost 46 years ago. Besides ARCSE, they both continue to be active in the local, district, and state Lions organization.

## MAINE

**John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [balnengr@tds.net](mailto:balnengr@tds.net)

This report takes up from my last report on Aug. 25, 2010. Hopefully, I can cover everything since then. As you may know, the Maine group has a 9 am breakfast at Dysarts

truck stop in Hermon on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (basically for the Bangor area retirees). We now have a summer luncheon meeting for southern ME folks in July, and another luncheon meeting in Aroostook County in October for the northern folks.

On Sept. 14, 2010 the 6 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Judy & Charlie Boothby, Dave Mussulman, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon.**

Our friend **Richard Marston** died on Aug. 12, 2010 (he was 86) as a result of a car accident on I-84 in Hartford, CT on July 2, 2010. At the time of his car accident he was driving himself up to ME from FL! He had been at numerous breakfasts with our ARCSE group for several years. None of us in ME had known **Richard** during his career in NJ. He had spent most of his SCS career in the New Jersey SO. **Richard** was born in and raised in Waterford, ME, went to UMO and graduated in 1950 in Agricultural Engineering.

On Sept. 28 I had my cataract removed from my right eye and can now see beautifully (20/20 +) and enjoying it a lot. I went under general anesthesia for my eye operation. My doctor indicated that this procedure allows the surgery to go somewhat slower and does not involve freezing the eye. When I woke up in recovery I could see perfectly from the get go. I refused to be awake during the operation! My doctor said that most people with only one eye choose the general anesthesia option.

All the group seemed to be in good health and spirits. **Dave Mussulman** was making plans for his annual move to his Florida location for his winter's stay.

On Oct. 12, 2010 the 5 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy & Charlie Boothby, and John Simon.**

**Joe & Ellie Bertolaccini** and I attended **Sterling Diamond's** 90th Birthday on 9/26/2010 at **Sterling's** church hall. It was a lot of fun. **Sterling** is one of Maine's Senior Conservationists. **Sterling** is unable to make our morning breakfasts any more.

On Oct. 13, 2010 ARCSE in ME had their first ever luncheon in Mars Hill in Aroostook County. The 7 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Linwood Holmquist, Walter Fournier, Annette & Cliff Roy, Phil Christensen, and John Simon.**

**Art Taylor** and I took the drive up to Mars Hill, ME to have a noon luncheon with the northern crew at Al's Restaurant. We had a great time. **Art** and I had not seen **Phil** for perhaps 30 + years! **Cliff Roy** was a DC in Fort Kent (Saint John Valley SWCD) for years and years. **Walter Fournier** was his technician for years and years also. **Linwood Holmquist** – age 86 in 2010 - was a technician out of Presque Isle, ME for years. **Linwood, Phil,** and I worked together during the summer of 1961 on the Presque Isle Stream, and Limestone Stream 566 projects. That SCS survey crew of 1961 included **Linwood Holmquist, Phil Christensen, Bob Shaw, Galen Bridge** (crew chief), **Gary Hedstrom, Peter Mosher, Gerald Bowie, Ralph Jennings,** and myself.

During the lunch, **Walter Fournier** and I discovered that we were cousins! We were related through my Mom's older sister **Christine**. We started corresponding by email after this. **Walter** had retired from SCS in 1982. I was shocked and saddened by **Walter's** death on Dec. 3, 2010 when I read **Walter's** obituary in the BDN on Dec. 6th. I regret waiting so long to get an Aroostook group going, but am happy I was able to get to know **Walter** before his passing. **Phil Christensen** and I swapped notes on the success of our cataract operations. **Phil** had both his eyes done and sees just great in both eyes. I had my remaining right eye done in Sept. 2010 with spectacular results also. I am now 20/20 or better and could not be happier. When I came out of the operating room I could not believe how bright everything was and how crystal clear I could see. Praise the Lord! I do not ever remember seeing this good without glasses. I wonder now what my vision was as a kid growing up.

On Nov. 9, 2010 the 6 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Judy & Charlie Boothby, John Ferwerda, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon.**

**John Ferwerda** informed the group that **Ken LaFlamme** had suffered a stroke in Sept. and is recovering slowly. **Charlie & Judy** indicated that they had recently visited their son in VA. They use Amtrak and enjoyed the ride. They traveled from Bangor to Boston by bus and then from Boston to VA by rail.

On Dec. 14, 2010 the 5 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy & Charlie Boothby, and John Simon.**

**Charlie** informed the group that he would be teaching a course in gardening this spring. **Charlie** is quite a gardener (he is organic) and has a nice greenhouse for extending the seasons. **Charlie** indicates that the biggest problem he has with a greenhouse is keeping it cool!

On Jan. 11, 2011 the 4 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Parker Rand, and John Simon.**

**Parker** informed the group that he had recently caught a 15 inch brook trout while out ice fishing. He indicated that the ice was from 5 to 12 inches thick, much less than desired. The heavy snow this winter is probably one reason keeping the ice thickness down.

**Bill Moulton** sent me an email indicating that he still does genealogical studies for clients. He enjoys the work especially during the long cold winters.

On Feb. 8, 2011 - This month we learned that **Donna Tidd**, wife of **Peter Tidd**, passed away on Jan. 29, 2011. She had fought a long battle with cancer. I attended the service for **Donna** that was held in Belfast, ME. It was a very beautiful service largely structured according to **Donna's** wishes.

On Feb. 11th I came down with a bad case of shingles. I had suffered from a bad head cold for most of Jan. and apparently it lowered my resistance enough that the

virus attacked me. It is a brutally painful condition. After the attack one is left with a painful condition called Post Herpetic Neuralgia (PHN). For me the worst part of the pain lasted till early May.

On March 8, 2011 the 5 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, Ron Olson** [now in Michigan], and **John Simon.**

**Ron** was visiting in ME to do some skiing and instructing of handicapped children at local ski lodges. He has done ski instructing for years. **Ron's** son works and lives in the Bangor area so this gave him a chance to visit with his son. **Ron's** son grew up here in Hampden as **Ron** had worked here in ME for many years as a soil scientist.

On Apr. 13, 2011 the 4 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, and Audrey & Norm Kalloch.**

**Norm** informed the group that the warm nights at West Cary Pond were interfering with his Maple sugar harvesting. **Norm** usually makes the long annual trip up to Bangor to see his dentist and do shopping. I am sorry I missed seeing **Audrey & Norm**. I worked in the Auburn/Lewiston office with **Norm** for quite a few years. He is an interesting and fun guy.

On May 10, 2011 the 9 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, John & Lola Ferwerda, Lois & Larry Long, Charlie Boothby, Dave Mussulman, and John Simon**

I am finally seeing a marked decrease in my PHN! It has lasted about 12 weeks. This is average for many cases of shingles. In June, I am just now beginning to feel my old self.

**Dave Mussulman** indicated that the annual fishing group has dwindled down to 3. The annual Moosehead Lake fishing trip has been going on for a long time. It was scheduled for later in May.

**Charlie Boothby** is involved with a group in Bangor, ME that is building 4x4 or 4x8 foot raised beds (about 16 inches high) for rent to local Bangor people to raise some of their own vegetables during the summer. **Charlie** was on the local TV news and did a great job explaining the program.

**Bill Moulton** sent me an email a while back about a farm in the Houlton area that he had done extensive work on while he was located in Houlton, ME as a DC with the SCS. **Bill** visited the farm last fall and was quite pleased that the conservation practices were still in place. The web site for the farm for anyone who is interested is: <http://www.lillyfarmnaturalbeef.com>. It is quite a farm and indicative of some of the organic operations that we have here up in ME.

On June 14, 2011 the 10 in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Gary Hedstrom, Warren Hedstrom, Joe Bertolaccini, Lois & Larry Long, and Noreen & John Simon.** **Larry Long** indicated to the group that he started with SCS in VT and that way

back then **Warren Hedstrom** was stationed in the same field office with him. **Larry** then moved to ME and had a long career in Presque Isle as a DC and in the SO in Orono as an Assistant SC. **Warren** eventually left the SCS and became a professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Maine. Some years ago the UMO shut down the Agricultural Engineering Department and combined it with the Chemical Engineering department. It is now called the Biological and Chemical Engineering Department. That is where **Warren** ended up. **Warren** has been retired for a few years now. **Warren** and **Gary** are brothers. **Gary** had a long career as a soil scientist at various locations in ME and has also been retired for a some years now. **Gary** spent many years serving in the Air National Guard – stationed out of Bangor – and is now retired from them also.

**Joe Bertolaccini** and **Ellie** plan a summer trip to Alaska. Sounds like a perfect time to spend up there where the days are much longer than in ME. Have not heard of anyone not liking the trip and scenery up there.

Apparently **John Ferwerda** (retired state soil scientist) is not feeling well. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and hope he is with us again shortly. **John** lives in Viezie, ME, just upriver from Bangor.

**Ken LaFlamme** (retired state soil scientist for correlation) is also not feeling well. Our thoughts and prayers are also with **Ken**. **Ken** lives in Old Town, ME, upriver from the University of Maine.

Talked to **Art Dearborn III** (retired state engineer) who indicated that he and **Francis** are still operating a tanning salon in Bangor. However, he has noticed a significant drop in the last few years since the economic decline.

Talked to **Ed Snow** (retired field engineer at the Bangor office) and he is doing very well. He loves FL, and if there was ever a great spokesman for FL, he is it. **Ed** still has his three daughters located in various locations in central ME, so his summers are busy with his grand kids. **Ed** and I go back a long way. When I was stationed in Orono in the mid-1960's **Ed** was moved to the SO as a draftsman on my design staff. **Ed** and I started taking engineering courses at UMO together. When **Ed** kept getting better grades than me, I decided to hound **Ed** to get his degree. He had left school after 2 years. He did finally get his BS in Civil Engineering and got upgraded to an engineering position. **Ed** is a master electrician and spent years working with his father as an electrician.

**Noreen** and I spent the last week of May in Montclair, NJ with our son and family. We had a great time with our grand children. Our grandson is 4.5 and our granddaughter is 2.5 so they are both lots of fun but they wear you out fast. We went to Turtle Back Zoo in Essex County, NJ one day and the next day went to the largest model train display in the world. They have over 8 miles of track in one building! Without seeing it, you simple would not believe a description of it!

On a sad note I have to report that **Ray Herrington**

passed away on May 13, 2011. Ralph Walker was also a technician in Auburn at the time. Leroy Bingham was DC in Auburn at the time.

**That's all from Maine. Take care and God bless.**

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: jim.wesoloski@gmail.com**

The big retiree news this time is the retirement of **David L. Nelson**, Assistant State Conservation Engineer on June 3, 2011 after 35 years and 11 months of federal service in MD, IA, and MA.

**Dave** began his federal career in 1974 as a Hydrologic Technician with the Agricultural Research Service in MD. In 1977 he came to SCS as an Agricultural Engineer in IA, and in 1988 he became the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in MA after working as a Civil Engineer and Project Engineer (Badger Creek Watershed Project) in Mason City and Des Moines. Besides his strong technical skills and his outstanding innovative work in MA he has been nationally recognized for his efforts with the Engineering Business Area Advisory Group, the development of the Surveying Engineering Tool (SET), and several national technical teams.

**Dave's** retirement party was a very low-key after-work get-together at the Amherst Brewing Company in deference to **Dave's** academic interest in locally crafted beers. The party served as a reunion for us retirees, so here's who I remember seeing. Sorry for anyone I missed.

**Frank & Joanne Wilda** were recently back from visiting their daughter in SD. This is the first year that **Frank** won't be raising Indian Corn. He said he just didn't have it in him this year; **Joanne** says she felt that way 10 years ago. **Frank** continues to have an interest in exploring for, and collecting minerals.

**Steve Fischer** who retired earlier this year has been on two post-retirement trips already. On his FL trip he met up with **Andrew Williams** (formerly on the MLRA Staff in MA) and **Steve** is now planning a trip out to WY where **Andrew** will be doing some soils field work this summer.

**Rick Devergilio** came up from his home on Cape Cod. **Rico** is finishing a major home expansion project. I asked if I could come visit him and **Betsy** on the Cape this summer and he said, "Sure." When I said we'd be there for about two weeks he said, "No, you can stay over night; that's it. And you may have to paint."

**Mark Grennan**, former DC in Pittsfield, was at the party but I didn't get a chance to talk with him.

Not retiree news, but MA alumni news: A few years back **Sal Salinas** was in MA as Assistant STC. Well, **Sal** is now STC in TX leading 764 NRCS'er in 217 field offices. Looks like we did a good job training the lad. Of course, we also did a good job training **Homer Wilkes** who is now the Acting Associate Chief of NRCS.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [mechgram@aol.com](mailto:mechgram@aol.com)

Minnesota metro retirees gathered for lunch on April 13, 2011, at Pippins in Roseville: **Margy & Micki Gangl, Bud Finney, Cathy McCormack, John Handler, Barb Nesbitt, Gloria McCalip, Roger Hirschman, Justin Jeffrey, Howard Midje, Tom & Irene Faragher, Ordean & Dorothy Finkelson, Dave & Kay Breitbach, Vic Ruhland, and Marlene Mechelke.** We were lucky to have State Conservationist **Don Baloun** join us a little late, but it was well worth the wait. He gave us the update on the conservation situation in the State of Minnesota and we look forward to visiting with him again soon.

**Gloria McCalip** reports that she has been playing piano at New Life Church in Woodbury on Sunday and at Bible Study Fellowship at Woodbury Lutheran Thursdays. Also actively following her 12 year old granddaughter's traveling soccer team in Cottage Grove, which is really fun.

Some of you may remember **Kay Schoen** who worked in the mail section in the state office. She transferred to the Veterans Administration some years ago. Her husband died a number of years ago and two weeks ago she remarried a man from Veterans Admin, **Craig Tennison.** **Craig** is the Minister of Music at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. They have retired from the VA and want to travel some. They are very happy and excited.

**Howard Midje** says that since Jan. it seems like all he's been doing is shoveling and blowing snow both at the farm and at the house. He's still doing wood carving and has been restoring the 1957 MGA roadster car. He's already been enjoying it this spring on a few short trips.

**Vic Ruhland's** major activity over the past several months continues to be centered on his wife's heart and blood loss problems being addressed by the doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. They decided to go ahead and get one of her heart valves replaced, which occurred on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Mary's Hospital. The valve was replaced with a tissue (swine) valve during the hours long open heart surgery with the heart immobilized. After completion of the surgery the heart was again put into motion. What an amazing procedure! Recovery was painful and slow for the next 9 days and she was finally discharged on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. She has regained some of her strength and has gone back to work one day per week. Her appearance and confidence has been greatly improved. However, her blood loss problem has not been completely corrected yet. We keep hoping that the body will eventually repair itself now with the stronger heart. She did require two more units of blood recently. Hopefully, the future looks brighter for us and some traveling will be possible again.

**Dave Breitbach** wonders, "Can it finally be spring? After a snowy winter with nearly 85 inches of the white stuff, everyone is ready. We have spent several weekends at the farm in Iowa sorting 'stuff' for my dad's estate auction

to be held April 30<sup>th</sup>. Looks like most of the rest of April will be spent there attending to the final details. My advice to everyone: Work on disposing of excess 'stuff' to save your kids the hassle and work after you're gone. **Kay** joined a tour group from the USA in Rome. The tour was Rome, Lucca, Florence, Venice, Assisi, and back to Rome. The highlight was on day two when they saw the Pope and were actually within 3 to 5 feet of him in the pope mobile. She reports the entire trip was a fantastic experience."

From **Bud Finney**: "Well, my little ¼ acre farm became covered with 8 inches of heavy wet snow Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and did not become free of snow until April 10<sup>th</sup>. That is far too much winter for an eager gardener as I claim to be. This winter was among the 5 snowiest ones on record.

"I bowl for two teams – one a fun group of older folks like me who want to socialize and bowl, and the other is a bit more serious league at the University of Minnesota. My team finished second in the first half and below that in the second half. In the championship matches we bowled and beat the second place team of the second half. That victory gave us a third place finish for the season.

My son, **Bruce** and wife, **Kathleen**, are doing well at Pocatello, ID. He is Professor of Limnology at ID State University. She is a psychologist with a health care service. My daughter, **Deb**, and family are doing well in Santa Rosa. Her husband, **Jeff**, is a helicopter pilot with a health care service. Their son, **Bryan**, is a freshman at Santa Rosa Community College, and daughter, **Sarah**, is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. My 82 year old body is doing fairly well, but its arthritis makes me say a lot of bad words."

**Barb Nesbitt** did not fall on the ice this winter – she bought lots of ice melt and kept her 'handmade' buckthorn walking stick with her when venturing out where there was ice (which seemed to be everywhere). She had so much fun shopping at Thrift Stores where she found 15-cent books and used jigsaw puzzles. She had all she could do to keep up with her reading, working puzzles, and baking an assortment of breads that she found in those used recipe books. She still has to read "The Yearling" (copyright the great year of 1938). She will be working as a plant patrol volunteer for the Maplewood Nature Center along with volunteering to pull small buckthorn and kill knotweed and keeping a lookout for new invasive plant outbreaks.

**Margy & Micki Gangl** have been trying to keep up with all the snow shoveling. This winter was such a miserable one – so much snow, so much cold weather and so terribly long – right up til the end of March. Hopefully, spring might actually be on the way. We are looking forward to seeing some green grass and flowers. No winter escapes to warmer climes for us, as long as we still have a house and driveway to take care of in the wintertime. We keep busy doing jigsaw puzzles – guilt free.

**Cathy McCormack** is busy doing volunteer work at her church in the women's programs and as a leader of a funeral luncheon committee. Prepared a meal and served homeless people at a Lutheran church in St.

Paul for the Loaves and Fishes program. March 23 is the anniversary day for working for USDA 1978-2008, and March 24 is the anniversary day for working for the Naval Reserve 1979-1999.

**Vic Ruhland** had a most enjoyable telephone call from **Bill Stokes**, and I (**Marlene**) got a call a few days later. You will remember **Bill** worked in the Water Resources Section at the State Office. **Bill** is now living in New Braunfels, TX. As most of you probably know, New Braunfels is about as German as they come. When the **Stokes** decided to move to TX where their daughter lives, the company where his wife, **Kelli**, worked found her a job in New Braunfels and helped move them there. Only a **Bill Stokes** could fall into such an arrangement! **Bill** has been in treatment for cancer for quite some time now, so remember him in your prayers.

**Lester W. 'Les' Swanson**, 89, of Willmar, passed away on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (See **IN MEMORIAM**)

**Harry Major**, 87, MN State Conservationist for 15 years, passed away on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> in Marshall, MO. **Harry** had a 30 year career with the USDA/SCS. During his tenure as MN STC he directed the completion of soil surveys for MN and received numerous awards for outstanding service. He retired in 1983 and in 1985 he and **Lucille** moved to Marshall, MO.

## MISSOURI

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

**Jess Epple**: (*MO retiree living in his native Oklahoma*) JP (**Jess & Phyllis**) Ranch has been buzzing like a mad hornet's nest lately but, activity is slowing now that we have our 1st cutting of hay harvested and hauled in. Yield suffered because of lack of rain. We made about 200 big rounds as compared to 270. If we can get moisture, the second cutting could be decent. Also, several EQIP practices were recently completed. These included 2000 feet more of pipeline for livestock watering devices, more Bermuda sprigging, & more tire (water) tanks. We continue to be involved with the Alumni & Friends Assoc. at Connors State College, Friends of the Civil War Battle of 'Honey Springs' near Checotah, OK, Muskogee Chamber of Commerce, and First Baptist Church in Muskogee. JP Ranch hands are excited to announce -- they are going to have a Great Grand Child!! **Jamie & Kari Hughes** of Columbia, MO will make OK ranch hands, **Jess & Phyllis** happy about Dec. What a Christmas present! We continue to make trips to see family and plan another trip July 8th. This is an important trip because **Jessie**, our oldest grand daughter will be married. I already like her husband-to-be. He has a farm background and helped lay the EQIP water line. **Jamie & Kari** continue to reside in Columbia, MO where **Jamie** is with the U.S. Geological Survey and **Kari** holds a position at the Hospital. When time permits **Kari** does home interior decorating/designing. Wishing 'you all' a healthy, event filled summer season.

**Larry Fisher**: Hope all is going well for everyone. I got a good report from the doctor since my surgery and am doing fine. I have been attending to a family member since mid April. My last surviving uncle on my mother's side of the family went into the hospital on April 17th then on to hospice care April 21st. His time is very short. I do want to send a "Thank You" to all of the people that sent me cards, emails, etc.

**Neil & Jan Pellmann** (*Retirees living in their native IL*) are grandparents for the first time. They were surprised to receive an invitation for dinner on March 21 at their daughter, **Jill**, and son-in-law **Dan's** house to meet their newly adopted daughter -- **Annabelle Catherine Lanigan**. **Annabelle** was born Feb. 16, 2011 weighing 6 pounds and is 18 inches long. She is their pride and joy. Grandma loves babysitting and must have an "Annabelle fix" nearly every day. Good thing she lives so close. They always have new pictures to share.

**Carl Anderson** writes that in Jan. he and **Nina** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They have both reached their 90th birthdays and are "in relatively good health for a couple of youngsters" ...most of the time they still mow their own lawn!! They have 16 great grand children. All 16 are very beautiful and very intelligent by an "unbiased" opinion. The oldest is 8 yrs and the youngest 6 months. The bad part is that they are all 350 to 1000 miles away. He says, "We don't get to see them very often".

**Keith Davis**: I don't respond every month, because I am a fairly boring guy (not true), but the last month has been anything but. My daughter, **Beth**, and her husband **Alex**, were in very nearly the middle of the path of the F-5 tornado that raked across **Joplin**. By God's grace, they escaped death, but after it passed, they crawled out from under a pile of boards that used to be their apartment. **Beth's** foot was lacerated and needed stitches, but that was the only injury. They moved in with some friends, and felt grateful that they were alive and that both of their places of employment were still intact. About three weeks later, **Alex's** workplace burned to the ground and he lost his job. So, our hearts have been focused on them, and we've been down there a couple of times to lend support. **Ed Gilmore** (Soil Conservationist) made their needs known in the workplace, and an outpouring of generosity provided for many of their needs. I've also been busy at the farm, working on food plots, refurbishing my sawmill, and installing a new roof on the cabin. I am presently digging footings for a workshop behind my house, and plan to use the sawmill at the farm to cut the lumber to build the cabin after the pad is in place. That will make three unfinished projects I have going at once. I've been fishing several times, and plan to go more when I come to my senses.

**Don Williams**: **Barb** and I took a 20 day, 5100 mile drive to Seattle and back during May. In the middle was a 7 night Alaskan cruise. It was lots of fun and overall decent weather in Alaska, but rain and snow in the northwest, and lots of high water everywhere. We had a great day to visit Mt. Saint Helens, but couldn't get to Crater Lake because of way too much snow. We took over 2600 pictures and over 2 hours of videos. Didn't hit any highs over 60 degrees until CO on the way back.

**Buck Burch:** We are moved in, furniture arranged, landscaped, garage squared away, lawn mowed and enjoying all Columbia has to offer. We love it.

**Charles Eddy:** Not much happenin' here. I just keep on keepin' on. Working with teen group at church preparing for mission trip to Portland, OR to work with homeless people and street people in late July. Looking forward to that as new experience. Trip with kids and grand kids first week of July to L.A., San Francisco, Yosemite, Coastline, beaches, etc. V A C A T I O N, We're gonna have a ball!

**Jay Lingwall:** We returned from FL to spend three weeks in Hannibal doing yard work and helping my parents with some home remodeling. Then we started driving west. Fished and visited relatives in CO. The Colorado River and tributaries are fast and full making fishing difficult. **Leigh** zip lined across the Colorado River and I watched! We drove jeep trails in Canyonlands, UT and camped in remote spots. Camped up at 9000 ft at Fish Lake, UT and caught a limit of nice trout. Currently at Lake Mead, NV and headed to Death Valley and then to Yosemite. It has been a good trip so far but I am beginning to wonder how well I will adjust to a "normal" retirement life.

**Bob Ball** submitted the following:

#### **SWCS Announces Award Recipients**

**President's Leadership Awards** - The SWCS President's Leadership Award is given at the discretion of the SWCS president in recognition of exemplary assistance to the president in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

**Diane Bradley-Redden**—This award is being given in recognition of her outstanding effort as co-chair of the 2010 SWCS Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO.

**Ron Ziehm**—This award is being given in recognition of his outstanding effort as co-chair of the 2010 SWCS Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO.

**Ross Braun**—This award is being given in recognition of his outstanding efforts on the Sustainable Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels Conference in Atlanta, GA, last fall.

**Lane Thurman:** We just returned from FL on Friday. Took our 4 year old granddaughter, **Delaney**, to DisneyWorld for a few days, she enjoyed seeing and meeting all the princesses, her favorite, Belle, took a lot of time with her and talked to her for quite some time. **Delaney** was just thrilled with the attention from Belle. She also met Cinderella and Ariel. We really got hot and sweaty from all the heat and humidity central FL has to offer, but spent some time in the pool to cool off. Had a great trip, but the costs are a lot more than around Springfield. That was our big trip for this year; the rest will be in the RV around home and to the lakes for fishing and relaxing..... Have a good summer.

**Mike Blaine:** **Pam** and I are, at this writing, helping with Rodeo Bible Camp in Unionville, MO. We both are helping with the horsemanship class for beginner riders (so far we have only had 2 riders fall off!!). The ages of the camp attendees range from 10 to 16. The camp teaches ALL phases of rodeo, including bull riding. So far we have had 2 young men hurt attempting to ride bulls and they would both be back tomorrow if they could. We finish up on Saturday with a real rodeo, including grand entry, and all events. This has been a really good time for us. We all rodeo during the day and study and worship at night. We have 68 kids here this year. We plan to attend the Sally Mountain Blue Grass festival at the end of June. That is a good time too. We enjoy Blue Grass, especially gospel Blue Grass. A little later we will help with the associational church camps. **Pam** and I will lead the worship times for both boys and girls camps. And, before summer is over, we will meet all our children and grand children on Hilton Head Island for a family vacation. This will be the 3rd time we have done this and we are really looking forward to it. I hope everyone is healthy and enjoying the summer.

## **MONTANA**

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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**Gordon Decker** report: June 1 retirees' breakfast included: **Jim & Joan Johnson, Ray & Shirley Smith, Hal & Judy Hunter, Bob & Liz Lohmiller, Carl & Lee Spring, Bob & Jan Remer, Gordon & JoAnn Watson, Dan McLean, Merlin Nelson, Bob Lund, and Gordon Decker.** Special guests were **Harold & Karen Cottet**, visiting the **Watson's**, living in Spokane, and retired as District Conservationist from Billings.

**Kathy** & I have been planting flower and vegetable gardens in between rain storms, watching the flooding reports and trying to plan a trip to the family ranch. I, being from a ranch from Eastern MT, never complain about the rain, Till Now!!

We finally got to the ranch this past week end (June 3 - 6), after having to detour around road closures (because of flooding and highway slides), and going over dirt roads that **Kathy** had never traveled, but I had during my soil mapping years in the 1970's. We spent most of the week end chasing noxious weeds, giving them a little growth booster, mowing and trimming around the property, and enjoying the very green landscape. We have some water in ponds and reservoirs, but no flooding on the ranch property, which temporarily relieves us of having to find leaks in livestock water pipelines. Wild game numbers are down, but we did see antelope, deer and elk: all tending to their young.

**James Johnson** report: We were at breakfast --there were 21 attending. **Harold Cottet** and his wife, of Spokane, were there, as they were visiting the **Watsons** and other friends and family in MT. The retirements of **Ron Nadwornick, SRC; Dave Kascht, ASTC;** and



**Larry Cooper**, PAS were announced. Their retirement celebration will be held at the Bozeman Ponds Pavilion on the evening of June 27th.

Everybody is looking forward to some warmer and drier weather, and hoping to avoid serious flooding.

**Scott Hoag** report: **Scott & Nancy** arrived back in Bozeman on May 30 after completing Habitat builds in NM, TX, and VA. **Scott's** mother, 92, passed away on Jun 8. Come Sept. they hope to be back on the road with a new smaller RV for Habitat builds in NM, NC, and FL.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** It's been a real tough spring; the precipitation is 250% of normal. We live in a 6-8 inch rainfall zone so we stack our hay outside and the weather never bothers it. This year the hay gets rained on every day and is so moldy **Mary Ann** has to brush the mold off the hay so the cows can eat it. But the horses can't eat it even after she bushes it off. When **Mary Ann** gets done she is so covered with mold she has to hose herself down before coming in the house.

The pastures are is so wet we don't dare put the horses or cows out on a field. They would sink up to their knees and **Mary Ann** would spend full time pulling them out of the mud. Since we can't get the animals out on pasture **Mary Ann** has to take a scythe, cut the grass, and carry it to the horses.

The other day **Mary Ann** went out to scythe grass for the horses and I couldn't figure out why she wasn't sinking into the ground. Especially when she is carrying a big load of grass. I got the scope out and watched her out the window to see how she was avoiding sinking in. Then I saw she was wearing snow shoes.

We haven't been to town in over two months with a vehicle. Luckily, we have lots of ground squirrels, wild onions, and dandelions to eat and fresh milk to drink. We ran out of table salt so **Mary Ann** brought in a block of cow salt and sat it in the middle of the table. When we need some salt we lick the block. One good thing is it really restricts my salt intake. Every day I shoot enough squirrels for us to eat. **Mary Ann** is so happy that I'm able to get enough ground squirrels. Hunting ground squirrels takes all my time when I'm not on the phone or else I would be able to help **Mary Ann** with the ranch work.

**Mary Ann** had to take her two pack mules to Three Forks which is 70 miles from us to get seed so we can get the fields planted. It's a slow process planting the fields. Since the fields are so wet **Mary Ann** has to plant everything by hand and having to wear snow shoes really slows her down.

One good thing that happened with all the rain is that we needed to seed some native grass in an area that was drought out several years ago. I got a copy of the Rangeland Seeding Standard and Specs from NRCS and gave it to **Mary Ann**. **Mary Ann** did her best to follow the

specs but she wasn't able to scarify the ground because it was to wet and the tractor is broke down any way. **Mary Ann** was about a month late in getting it planted. We checked with range con **Dennis Froeming**. He said we would have to cross our fingers since we weren't following the specs exactly. But **Mary Ann** had no choice. She took her whirligig hand seeder and seeded the area. The grass is growing like mad. I think every seed germinated. I called NRCS about getting an EQUIP contract. They tried to come out to look at the site to see if it would qualify, but the road is so muddy they weren't able to make it out. They tried to make it on a four wheeler but it's still buried about half way out here. I called the State Conservationist **Joyce Swartzendruber** to see if they could rent a helicopter so that **Marni Thompson** could check the field. When **Joyce** asked me how many acres we were talking about and I said 40, I heard two days later she was still laughing.

We held a Tribal Conservation District training meeting in Tempe, AZ in May and the NRCS in AZ was very supportive in helping with the training. **Dave MacKay**, State Conservationist talked about working together and also said he was retiring in July. **Steve Barker** and **Bryon Lambeth** discussed rangeland planning. **Tom Hedt** discussed EQUIP and tribal irrigation issues. **Kris Graham-Chavez** discussed CSP. **Stew Tuttle** spoke on WHIP. The attendees learned a lot from the presentations.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman & Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives**

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The Lincoln SCS Retirees' Club met on March 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order by **Paul Smith**, President.

**Vern Dvorak** had cataract surgery this morning. **Dick Johnson** is now at Madonna.

**Dorothy Reinsch**, wife of **Bill Reinsch**, died on March 6. She had been ill and had been in hospice the last several months. **Bill** has the beginning of Parkinson's.

**Joe Kuening** received correspondence from **Bill Fobair** from NV. **Joe** also reported that **Bill McKinzie** is at Holmes Lake Manor. **Bob Koerner** expressed thanks for the support he received at his wife's death and his recent illness and was glad we are all members of the SCS family.

**Virginia Atkins** just got back from a cruise in the Caribbean and had a great time on a river boat cruise, snorkeling, seeing ruins, and shopping. **Chris Chapman** traveled to New Zealand in Jan. to see her son and his family. Her son lives on the north island and was not in the Christ Church earthquake.

However, **Lorn Dunnigan's** granddaughter was temporarily working at the Christ Church zoo at the time

of the earthquake, but was transferred to the north island afterwards. **Dave & Sandy Langemeier** spent 12 days in Mesa, AZ, visiting his brothers. They spent a week in Denver for their grandson's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Their daughter and grandchildren from TX were here for a visit.

**Steve Stover** and wife spent some time in TX, NM, and AZ to see family and friends. **Steven Scheinost** and wife had also traveled to AZ, as had **Russ Shultz** and wife.

**Pat McGrane** handed out notices on how to contact your representative in Washington, D.C.

Our spring banquet was held on April 28 at the Cotner Center. It was our 40<sup>th</sup> annual banquet and **Dana Snyder** was the speaker. The banquet was attended by 47 people.

**Norm** announced that his wife **Sylvia** had hip surgery to attach some tendons and muscles. She is doing well. **Tom Keep** had surgery to remove a mass and one kidney. He is recovering from surgery well, but he doesn't know at this time if chemotherapy will be required.

**Don Williamson** has been sick, and his wife **Joni** made his calls for the meeting.

**Bill & Coleen Hance** went to CA for a wedding and also to attend some Bible classes. They also visited the Grand Canyon to see and walk the skywalk recently pictured in National Geographic and drive through the Joshua Tree Forest in CA.

**Steve Stover** and wife went to Cincinnati, OH, to see their granddaughter's first communion. They went on to the State College area in PA where **Steve's** great-great-grandfather entered the Civil War and where he was buried.

**Russ Shultz** has retired a second time after serving 20 years as the Lancaster County's Weed Control Superintendent. He and his wife visited their grandchildren; his grandson graduated from high school.

**Keith Sheets** and his wife are back home from wintering in Texas.

**JoAnne Thiele** had information that **Arnold Mendenhall** received the 2011 Earth Keeper Award from Wachiska Audubon as a result of the work he did on a donated farm near Pawnee City.

Callers will be changed in Aug. **Paul** will be contact the current callers about continuing.

**Gus Dornbusch** reported on the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for **Frances King**. **Frances** has a new phone number: 402-261-4790.

**Wayne Liesemeyer** died on June 7, 2011 and **Judy Kisch-Keuten** died on June 12, 2011.

**Norman Kempf** and **Jim Culver** reported on a very successful fishing trip to Canada over Memorial Day.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [jhcanter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhcanter@bellsouth.net)

On May 12, seventy nine SCS/NRCS North Carolina retirees, spouses and guests gathered for their annual picnic at Lake Crabtree near Raleigh. Lake Crabtree is part of the Wake County Park system and is one of the structures in the Crabtree Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project.

**Senior Conservationist, Grady Wise**, 96 years old, was recognized as the oldest retiree in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists in attendance were **Everette Barefoot, Ed Brewer, John Garrett, Elwood Guthrie, Bob Jessup, Leonard Kilian, Lawrence Matheson, Phillip Murray, Bob Tennant, and Rosalie Whittington.**

**World War II Veterans** – Of the above Senior Conservationists, **Barefoot, Brewer, Jessup, Matheson, Murray, Tennant, and Wise** served in WW II. We have identified 79 former North Carolina SCS employees who served in World War II. Twenty three of them are still living.

Attending the picnic were: **John & Trish Andrews, Everette & Jean Barefoot, Stanley Barefoot, Ed & Betty Brewer, Lipe & Renda Barrier, Bobby Brock, Jim & Becki Canterbury, Nancy Clary, Sidney Tew, Dr. Maurice Cook, Tommy Cutts, Frank & Loretta Evans, Howard & Peggy Garner, Beth Tufts, Coy Garrett, John & Mildred Garrett, Harry & Elaine Gibson, Charlie Godley, Elwood & Emily Guthrie, Mitchell Guthrie, Roger Hansard, Hubert Hawkins, Ernie & Samera Hayhurst, John & Maggie Hill, Caroline Hiovich, Alice Heaney, Joy Parks, Elizabeth Parks, Virginia Horton, Bob Jessup, Steve Jessup, Joe Kenyon, Billy & Val Jones, and Leonard Kilian.**

Also attending were **Roger & Rebecca Leab, Harold Lile, Claude & Ruby Long, Ron & Ann Marlow, Lawrence & Ollie Matheson, Warren Mincey, Phillip Murray & Ann Murray, Amy Silver, George & Ellen Norris, Phyllis Pate, Clara Raynor, John Rice, Suzanne Schenkle, Wayne Short, Horace Smith, Mike Suggs, Robert & Phyllis Tennant, Don & Anne Ward, Mike Washington, Rosalie Whittington, Talmadge & Margie Wiggins, Grady Wise, and Janet Wise Pugh.**

We were honored to have former NC employees **George & Ellen Norris** from GA. **George** is the ARCSE Representative for GA. **John Rice** joined us from MO and **Ron & Ann Marlow** came from VA. **Ron** serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for ARCSE.

**Mike Washington** was recognized as the newest retiree having been retired all of two weeks.

**Mike Suggs**, Assistant State Conservationist (Operations) gave a report on NRCS programs, personnel, and budget.

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland**, ARCSE Representative  
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The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met April 22, 2011 at the Hometown Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Forty-five people were in attendance. They were: **Bob Bumgarner, Bob & Loretta Bourlier, Everett & Helen Cole, Geri Cutler, Bob & Betty Day, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred & Gayle Fortney, Randy & Bonnie Freeland, Jim & Roberta Frie, Lloyd Garrison, Gayle & Mary Goforth, Jim & Molly Henley, Sandra Hough, Don & Pat Jackson, Winnie Jaques, Billy J. Johnson, Otho LaMar, Nick Lambeth, Carl & Jeanne Mackey, Jim McCampbell, Gordon & Minnie Carol Moebius, Nelson Mueller, Glen & Eunice Mullen, John & Joy Pewthers, Eddie & Linda Rathbun, Stan Rice, Dan & Sharon Runnels, Gene Spurlock, and Carolyn & Bob Webb.** John Pewthers provided the blessing and everyone enjoyed a buffet meal.

Our Secretary, **Sandra Hough**, noted that she had mailed 333 notices of our meeting. That is quite an impressive mailing list of OK SCS/NRCS Retirees. She only received 6 back from the post office because of insufficient or wrong addresses.

Five new retirees have been added to our retiree list: **Dean Cook** (Engineer at Perry WO), **Debbie Ruark** (Personnel Section in Stillwater), **Roy Walton** (Soil Conservation Technician at Fairview formerly of Okeene), **Paul May** (DC at Durant) and **Bill Doherty** (Soil Conservation Technician at Walters).

**Carolyn & Bob Webb** were introduced as 'first timers' to the meeting. **Carolyn** was the District Secretary in the Bristow Field Office for 33 years retiring in 1986 and her husband **Bob** is currently serving on the Creek County Conservation District Board. The group welcomed them and encouraged them to come back. Others in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and their spouse or guest.

**Sandra** also told the group that **Bob Day** had reached the status of "Senior Conservationist" on March 15, 2011. To be a Senior Conservationist you must have worked for SCS or NRCS and be 83 years of age. There is a questionnaire to complete and submit to the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) but you do not have to be a member to qualify. Being a Senior Conservationist does not give free membership to ARCSE however. She stated that if there were any in attendance who qualify for a "Senior Conservationist", **Randy Freeland** has the form to complete.

**Randy Freeland** presented a slide show of slides he had borrowed from the State Office information section. Everyone in attendance enjoyed seeing the slides of employees from years past and tried to identify those on the screen. Some were easy but most were difficult to identify. It seems as though people aged in the photos. Many of those identified were in attendance at the meeting.

It was reported that **Archie Welch** is now a resident of Ardmore Veterans Center and will soon be 90 yrs. old. **Tom Perryman** is 90 yr. old and his brother **Fred Perryman** is 85 yrs. old. Both are living close to where they were raised in southwest OK.

**Fred Fortney** read the list of retirees &/or spouses who have passed since our last meeting: **Madison "Red" Hallows**, 11/3/10, SCT, Atoka 87 yrs. old; **Steve Cink**, 2/25/11, SCT, Newkirk, died in Service; **Jackie Sheperd**, 2/11, wife of **J. W. Sheperd**, CET in design section of state office, retired '86-'87; **Wes Thomas** 1/22/11, AC, Duncan, lived in Okemah; **Don Perryman**, 1/11, son of Tom Perryman & nephew of Fred Perryman, passed away in Altus; **Irene Clements**, 12/17/10, widow of **Alvin M. "Buck" Clements**, living at Coalgate; **Max Dominick**, 12/7/10, engineer & father of Darrel, Stillwater; **Cecil Hicks**, worked in Clinton WO; **Eugene Hart**, 11/9/10, SCT, Tahlequah, living in Okmulgee; **Ray Murrell**, 4/11/11, DC, Altus, 95 yrs. old; **Ronnie Winkle**, 4/8/11, Core Drill, Okemah, left SCS in 1971 when core drill unit abolished and worked for State of Oklahoma; **Hugh Gilbert Taylor**, 4/8/11, SCT, Nowata, living in Barnsdall, retired in '85, 87 yrs. old; and **Donnie Donahoo**, 4/3/11, DC, Enid. Everyone observed a moment of silence and a prayer was offered by **Fred Fortney**.

**Jim & Roberta Frie** continue to volunteer one day a week at the Stillwater Medical Center. They keep an RV at Lake Carl Blackwell year round. **Don Jackson** spends a lot of time babysitting and taking grandkids to school. He had a Cochlear ear implant in his right ear last fall and said he can "now" hear.

Raising registered Dexter cattle keeps **Dan & Sharon Runnels** busy these days. They had their first calf in March. They also took a ten day trip to CO last fall on their "Trike" (motorcycle) and loved every minute of it. He highly recommends retirement!

**Carolyn Webb** is an American Red Cross Coordinator for the Bristow Blood Drives. She also delivers Meals on Wheels, serves on the Bristow Library Board, volunteers at the local hospital and is active in her church and with the Bristow Garden Club.

**Helen Cole** still works at Stillwater National Bank and **Everett** spends his "spare" time on the farm. **Wayne Fjeseth** is active in NARFE and encourages all SCS/NRCS retirees and active employees to become members.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Oct. 28, 2011, at Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. A notification to those on **Sandra's** mailing list will be sent approximately 30 days prior to the meeting.

Here is a note from **Larry Caldwell** concerning the small watershed program, "Just wanted to let you know that today we had a very nice dedication of the ASABE plaque and designation of the USDA Small Watershed Program as a National Historic Engineering Landmark. The event was held at the entrance of the State Office building where the brass plaque was unveiled. We had over 100 people in attendance. The highlight was having 35 retired engineers, inspectors, ARS scientists, and others who have worked on watershed projects over the past 60 years. After the outdoor ceremony, we had a two hour reception where a lot of watershed history stories were shared. Someone referred to this as 'the best family reunion he has been to!'

"We had **JW Sheperd** who was the inspector on Cloud Creek site no. 1, the first watershed dam constructed in the nation in 1948. I got him connected with our public affairs staff who taped a story on his experiences. Also attending was **John Geter** who we think was the first project engineer in the nation. He came from Ft. Collins for this event. He related many stories about the "good ol' days" in the watershed program. **John's** son is **Frank Geter** who is an NRCS employee in Ft. Collins. We had several engineers, inspectors, and surveyors who started with SCS in the late 1940's and 1950's. We made several handouts on Oklahoma Watersheds for the participants to take with them.

"It was a fun day! I really enjoyed talking with the retirees who had not been together as a group for over 20 years. Lots of stories were shared as they relived experiences with watershed easements, and construction over the past several decades. You could sense the retiree's pride in the watershed program and the work they had accomplished. Several of the currently working engineering staff were interacting with the retirees. I think they now have a better appreciation of experiences of these pioneers of the watershed program.

"I was proud to be working with the watershed program today! Just wanted to share some good news and a historic moment."

## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**  
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Twelve members were present for the May 20, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakely, Elaine Davis, Barbara Gillum, Dave Drennan, Bernelle Baxley, Bonnie McKee, Arnold King, Joyce Petty, Mark Boysen, Tom Hodges and Bernie & Maxine Owen.** Due to vacations, fishing trips, and the potential for thunder storms we had a small but amiable group for our May meeting.

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. Club business included a treasurer's report from **Elaine Davis.**

**Maxine Owen**, granddaughter **Michelle**, and daughter-in-law **Carol Owen** recently returned from a Qualifier Volleyball Tournament in Kansas City. **Michelle's** Smack 14 team placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 59 teams in her division. They stayed with **Maxine's** sister and all cheered for the team.

**Joyce Petty** said our Alumni Club did very well winning raffle prizes at the Reunion in New Braunfels. Even though **Bonnie** was unable to go at the last minute she gave **Joyce** money for the raffle---winning one of the \$50.00 prizes. Several of our group won more than one drawing.

**Barbara & Rex Gillum** also attended the State Reunion, winning more than one prize in the raffle. When the Reunion ended they drove on to Branson and Little Rock, AR. **Barbara** said most of the time they were in a cold rain but did enjoy their trip. However, when they arrived back home they discovered their home had been hit by lightning. Nearly all the electrical appliances had burned out except for their kitchen appliances and the televisions that had been unplugged before leaving the house. The security system, air conditioner, phones, garage door opener, and more were destroyed. The electrician checked out the attic and discovered scorched areas and found several shingles missing. They felt very fortunate a fire had not ignited.

**Elaine Davis** has been busy with her teenage granddaughter, **Megan**, and her many activities. **Megan** won her letter jacket in power lifting from her high school this year. **Elaine** noted that the jacket she "won" cost \$179.00.

**Bonnie McKee** has family company visiting from Pennsylvania.

**Arnold & Willeene King** were in New Braunfels for the State Alumni meeting. **Willeene** has graciously accepted the work of keeping the Texas State Alumni Directory up to date. **Arnold** is attending the ARCSE meeting in Washington D.C. in July.

**Bernie Owen** reported that he and **Dennis Gaster** are both officers in the Arlington NARFE group and had attended the State NARFE Convention in Galveston the end of April. **Bernie** said **Dennis** was in the hospital Monday through Thursday of this week with kidney stones. He is home now and feels fine but has his fingers crossed he stays that way. **Bernie** passed on the news that **Dennis Neffendorf** is retiring from NRCS and moving to Fredericksburg to run his family's peach orchard.

**Mark Boysen** told us he and **Sue** have a trip scheduled to Hawaii. He was somewhat concerned it would happen, however as **Sue** is scheduled for Jury Duty; the cat and the dog are getting older, and the cows at the ranch need water and the water is getting low. We wish you two a happy trip, **Mark.**

**Tom Hodges** had recently been to Washington D.C. and was especially impressed with the World War II Memorial.

He urged everyone to visit the Memorial when in that area.

**Dave Drennan** said they had a great time on their recent trip to Hawaii---the weather was perfect. One highlight of their trip was the Home of the Brave Tour of Pearl Harbor. **Dave** also went to the Texas Relays in Austin with his brother. **Dave** is a runner and his brother is in the NC Hall of fame as a distance runner. The day before the meeting he and his son went to the Colonial Golf Tournament in Fort Worth. While there they saw pro golfer, John Daly. He said his grandson, **Finn**, is now playing T-ball. **Dave** stressed to all the importance of wearing sun screen. He recently had basal cell carcinomas removed from the tops of his ears and warned all not to take chances with skin cancer.

**Estelle William's** daughter, **Monica**, was engaged at Christmastime and is getting married in July. The wedding will be held on the Miramar Beach in Destin, FL with a small, barefoot party of 32 people followed by a small reception. A larger reception for 400 people will follow in Fort Worth on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. **Estelle** is a wedding planner and has another wedding planned the weekend following the reception. Soon after that she is taking a trip to New Orleans to relax. In April **Estelle**, her son **Loren William's** girlfriend and **Estelle's** best friend took a 12 day cruise to Hawaii with 5 days at sea visiting all of the islands. **Estelle** said it was wonderful, like a city on the water. They had such a great time they have planned a cruise to the Alaskan Inner Passage one year from now.

**Faye Alexander** is still working on healing a fracture in her left wrist. Her wrist is still swollen and in order to improve her flexibility she will remain in physical therapy four times a week for several more weeks. In April **Faye** and **Alex** were on their front porch. **Alex** was lifting a bag of fertilizer when he started to fall and **Faye** tried to help him gain his balance. They both fell and her wrist was broken as a result. **Alex** is getting along OK now. We wish you a quick and complete healing, **Faye**, and a better summer for both of you.

**Olga Smith** gets together with a group of 18 Seniors at the Rise N Shine Restaurant on Alta Mesa on a regular basis. **Olga** sent the message, "Hello to everyone and hope all are OK!" She hopes to come to a meeting someday soon.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> **Lucille Chessmore** told us she is doing pretty well now but had been in the hospital with bronchitis in March. She said that took awhile for her to get over, but she is making it now. She hopes to get back to attending Alumni meetings again soon. **Lucille** added: "Do you remember my daughter, **Nita Sue**? Tuesday she had back surgery in Atlanta, GA, and she's doing well and plans to go home this afternoon. This is the third back surgery in three years, but the surgeon assured her that she would be much better after this one. She was in much pain before the surgery, and has had very little since. She's been up walking in the hospital, but has orders to go home and do nothing for several weeks. They have found someone to stay with

her for two weeks. That way her husband can continue to do his work."

**Clyde Goodman** said **Marla** had been a hospice caregiver for her brother until he passed away last Aug., 2010. Before that she had taken care of another brother the same way. In Feb. **Marla** had hip replacement surgery. In early April **Clyde** wrote that the doctor told **Marla** she could put full weight on her new hip as tolerated. He stated her PT will really get serious now.

**Virginia Merrill** said **John** is still working. Students still call him about TCU and the Ranch Management Program there. He was the Director of the program for many years and then he taught the subject. The week we talked in April **John** was attending a Cattle Raisers Convention in San Antonio. **Virginia** said she is holding her own and she sounded great.

**Wayne Weaver** had recently had triple bypass heart surgery and was up and going in April. He plays bridge on Tuesday afternoons at his regular Bridge Club. He also is certified as a Duplicate Bridge Instructor and Monday nights co-teaches duplicate bridge for a group of 12 people/three tables of Duplicate Bridge.

**Don & Berniece Newman** wrote: please be advised that we have a new e-mail address. Please make this change in your e-mail address book: dfn53@yahoo.com. They didn't make the May meeting as they attended a funeral in Caldwell for a dear friend of **Berniece's**. They will leave on Friday for Amarillo for the Memorial Day weekend. **Don** and **Mark** have work to do out on the farms.

**Don & Mary Stelling** wrote: Greetings from NE. We received the latest Newsletter and as always are happy to hear what others are doing. After being gone from the SNTC for over twenty years some names aren't familiar to us. We wish we were closer to attend meetings. Last Sunday we returned from ten days in FL attending a grandson's graduation from University of Central Florida in Orlando on May 7 and our granddaughter's graduation from Lynn University in Boca Raton on May 14. During the week we toured St. Augustine, Daytona Int. Speedway, the Everglades, Key Largo, and other places of interest. We have family living in Melbourne so we were privileged to have four generations present at times. We are getting along pretty well health-wise so we are grateful for that having started into the 80's. Best wishes to all!

**Jim Brassfield** wrote on 5/16/2011: We have moved, so please change our address to 2351 Ogden Rd., McEwen, TN 37101. Please put this in the newsletter so others can have our new address. In the last storm we had three large trees blow down in the front yard - one was 30 inches in diameter. We were fortunate they blew away from the house. We moved in on April 1. It took eight months to do the work we wanted done inside the house. Thanks, **Jim Brassfield**.

**Wilson T. (Bugger) Moon** passed away May 17, 2011 about 7:00. **Mr. Moon** would have reached 100 years

old this fall. He was a Mason, and a member of the Aggie Club. See (**IN MEMORIAM**). Received May 24, 2011. It is with much sadness we share the news of the passing of our friend and long time Alumni Club Member, Mr. **Jerald "Jerry" Plummer**.

**Claude Crowley** modestly describes his new e-book 'The Day I Turned Green' as "The first and only novel that conveys the fulfilling, adventurous, and romantic life of a dedicated Soil Conservation Service conservationist."

"Hollis Spurlock, the protagonist, is an accurate portrayal of the dedicated young SCS employees with whom I worked in the late forties and early fifties," **Crowley** said. "The story relates Spur's adventures and misadventures as he overcomes technical and cultural challenges, matures into a respected district conservationist, and flounders his way to winning the girl he loves."

'The Day I Turned Green' may be purchased from Amazon.com for \$4.99, and can be read on a Kindle, iPad, iPhone, Blackberry, and Android devices.

**Crowley** retired from SCS in 1982 after serving as district conservationist, watershed contracting officer, and public affairs officer. From 1982 until 2004 he was self-employed as a writer and public affairs consultant. Since 2004 he has concentrated on book writing.

## **VIRGINIA**

**Rachel Hollins, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [rhollin@louisa.net](mailto:rhollin@louisa.net)**

NRCS is working with the Louisa County Historical Society and Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to dedicate an historic marker formally recognizing Virginia and its important role in the development of what has become our modern soil survey and the soil conservation movement in our country. NRCS will also take this opportunity to commemorate the completion of Virginia's initial soil survey mapping more than 100 years after Mr. Bennett's first fieldwork began.

The ceremony will be held at the Louisa Arts Center Auditorium with the unveiling afterwards on the grounds outside. Retirees who are part of our proud history have been invited to attend.

This event was publicized by use of several means. One method was the use of "Save the Date" cards. These cards read as follows:

**Save the Date**

**July 15, 2011**

Join the Louisa County Historical Society and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in recognizing Virginia as the birthplace of modern soil conservation.

"The damaging effects of soil erosion were in evidence to right and left through the rolling farm country encountered in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia during my first two years of surveying, but it was not until 1905 that I began to understand just what was taking place on the land." — Hugh Hammond Bennett

In 1905, Hugh Hammond Bennett, "the father of soil conservation," conducted a special soil survey in Louisa County, Virginia, through which he came to understand the link between soil erosion and degradation of soil quality. Mr. Bennett characterized the Louisa County survey as an epiphany about erosion processes and referred to that study throughout his career as he campaigned nationally for soil conservation.

One hundred six years after that first fieldwork began, Virginia's initial soil survey mapping is now concluded. Surveying 26 million acres required a huge federal/state/local partnership. Today, this soils information can be easily accessed online at [websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov).

Join us in the Arts Center Auditorium at 2 p.m. on July 15, 2011, for a look back at Louisa's place in Virginia soil conservation history and a look forward at the future of soil surveys.

RSVP to **Rita Edwards** at (804) 287-1644 or [rita.edwards@va.usda.gov](mailto:rita.edwards@va.usda.gov) for a location map and details.

Event Sponsors: Louisa County Historical Society, USDA NRCS, Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Virginia Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society.

## **WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Wayne & Dolly Maresch** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 9th. Their children and grandchildren gave them a surprise party to celebrate the event. They have had 6 children, 17 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren, so they can fill up a house in a hurry. Congratulations **Wayne & Dolly**. We wish you many more.

**Barb & Don Woodward** recently spent a month in Warsaw, Poland where **Don** worked on a research project dealing with NRCS runoff curve number development. They stayed at the Jkar Hotel, a Warsaw Life Science University sponsored facility. **Don** also help teach a graduate course in hydrology. They were able to spend one weekend in Northern Poland where they visited the cities of Gdansk, Sopot, and Oliwa. They also took a boat trip on a canal between Elblag and Ostrada. The highlight of the trip were 5 skipways where the boat was

moved uphill in a cradle from one body of water to the next water. The entire lift operation is water driven. The highest lift was 24.5 meters. They also enjoyed the tourist sights in Warsaw.

Your National Capital Area reporter missed the spring luncheon which was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. **Peterson's** were on a trip to New Zealand and Australia at the time. I apologize for not having any details of the program. Here is a list of those that attended the spring luncheon: **Neil & Eleanor Bogner, Owen & Kathleen Lee, Karl Otte, Frank Resides, Tom Iivari, Roger Cronshey, Wally Ochs, Ida Cuthbertson, Diana Morse, Peter Smith, Bill Boyer, David Ralston, Carl & Janet Bouchard, Lee B. Shields, Ron Marlow, Ted Ifft, Fred & Marge Theurer, Wes Hofstad & Dorothy Davis, Lennie Losh, Marion Hagerty, Wendy Hagerty, Jim Hannawald, Wayne F. Maresch, Linda Sargent, Roger Thomas, John Stierna, Barbara Osgood, and Homer Wilkes.**

**John & Blanche Peterson** visited New Zealand and Australia in April and May. They started their visit in Auckland on New Zealand's North Island. Getting to Auckland took a 5 hour flight to LAX, another 14 hours to Sydney, and then 3 more to Auckland. They left on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>, and arrived in Auckland on Wednesday. After touring Auckland, New Zealand's largest city with about 2.1 million people, almost half the nation's 4.4 million total, they rented a car and started driving south. **John** is getting used to driving on the left having done it now in England, Ireland, and Australia. They visited the Glowworm Caves at Waitomo, the Maori Cultural Center, thermal geysers, and the beautiful museum and parks in Rotorua, the Art Deco City of Napier on the Pacific Ocean, and then drove to Wellington, the nation's capital and turned in their rental car.

From Wellington they took the ferry to the South Island, landing at Picton, where they were met by Australian friends **Judy & Doug Wimble** from Sydney. **John & Doug** served many years on the Board of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), and the two families have traveled the world together. After stopping in Nelson for the night, the travelers then drove south and visited the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers, spent time in Queenstown from which they toured the Fiordland National Park and beautiful Milford Sound, and enjoyed snow as they headed east toward Christ Church. The earthquake devastation in Christ Church was just awful. And they have suffered even more since **Peterson's** arrived home. Much of the city will never be rebuilt as it was. Many historic buildings such as historic Cathedrals are gone.

From Christ Church our travelers flew to Melbourne, Victoria, where they stayed with more Australian IECA friends **Ruth & Bill Leggatt**. They spent a week touring Victoria, seeing the March of the Fairy Penguins, the Great Ocean Road along the Tasman Sea, many emu's and kangaroo's at Halls Gap, gold mines at Ballarat, and took in an Aussie Rules football game at the famed Melbourne Cricket Ground, the "G", on ANZAC Day. People were dressed to the nines, suits, ties, hats,

and dresses. Certainly not like our American football games. Then it was on to Sydney, New South Wales, where they caught up with the **Wimble's** again. **John & Blanche** have been to Sydney often, and love the city. They toured the famous Sydney Opera House, walked Circular Quay and The Rocks, and the landmark Sydney Harbor Bridge. They also visited the Blue Mountains and rain forest again. After being gone 5 weeks, our travelers flew back home May 9<sup>th</sup>. **Doug & Bill** are both hydroseeding contractors in Australia, and **John** got to visit many job sites with them.

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) recognized USDA's Small Watershed Program as a National Historic Engineering Landmark in Oklahoma City on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> National Watershed Conference conducted by the National Watershed Coalition (NWC). This was only the 57<sup>th</sup> such designation made by ASABE since 1926, but the first time a "program" was so honored. Usually it has been a significant development or project such as the John Deere plow, the cotton gin, vegetated waterways, and the skid steer loader. These projects have typically protected people's lives and property and have improved the quality of life and rural community environment.

**Larry Caldwell** moderated the ceremony, and **John Peterson** was one of the speakers providing some program history and a national perspective. NRCS Chief **Dave White** and ARS Administrator **Dr. Ed Knipling** also spoke. Dedication plaques have been located at the NRCS State Office in Stillwater, OK, the ARS Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit near Stillwater, and a granite monument was placed at the Agriculture Building on the State Capital Complex in Oklahoma City. **Larry & John** have also been asked to speak at the ASABE Annual Meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> in Louisville. It would be nice if this recognition of the benefits of this tremendously successful conservation program would help restore people's support for it. With all the flooding we have experienced this year, on the Mississippi, Missouri and Souris, Red Rainey Rivers; such a program is sorely needed. Where watershed projects have been completed as planned, there is far less need for federal disaster assistance in times of flooding.

**Glen Johnson** says, "Got back to ND 2 weeks ago, what a change from hot dry AZ. South of the Des Lacs River about 30-40% of cropland is seeded (no wind erosion this spring), North of there many fields and farms have nothing seeded. Sheet and rill erosion is extreme. We had 2" of rain last Monday afternoon and water is still standing in my yard on level ground. Many of the fields I see are 30-50% water. I just came from Minot where the Souris is hitting new record flooding, the town is divided, only trucks allowed on the only usable road between north and south side. Most retail business is on the south side so those on the north side have no grocery, hardware or grocery stores and this will go on til mid July at least. One thing is for sure it should be a short harvest this year. " Thanks, **Glen**.

**John Peterson** was appointed by the VA Senate Committee on Rules to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee representing VA's Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The appointment is for a 4-year term ending June 30, 2015.

**Wes & Dottie Hofstad** have just hosted **Dottie's** family from Savannah for a week, culminating in the wedding of her grandson last Sat. Then they will host a Swedish family - she was an exchange student who stayed with **Dottie** about 30 years ago - the 1st week in July. Then they return to northern WS for the summer. They expect to be back home in time for the Fall Luncheon. See you all then.

## OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from **Willie L Ruffin**:

Hello **Fred** and PA Bugle Gang and special hi to **James Olson**,

Just a note to share with you all that I decided to hang on for another year in Sayed Abad, Afghanistan, in support of our military. Matter of fact, as of today I only have 11 months left including 3 R&R's; end of June, end of September, and maybe home for the Christmas Holidays. I am scheduled to arrive back in the states for good on April 6, 2012. Please keep me posted on the scheduled group get together dates in September, and I will see what I can do to attend.

I don't know if many of you are aware that I am also retired military (May 1995), and a active member of American Legion Post 171, Damascus, Maryland. Many Post Members are looking forward to my returning and retiring to become the Commander of the Post. I shared that to help you all understand why I am here supporting the young troops. It's a real challenge for all us, but I feel that I am making a real contribution to resolving our efforts here. It sort of reminds me of being a District Conservationist back in Perry and Erie Counties. I am working very hard trying to put Agriculture on the face of the District's Extension Staff. They seem to be about where we were in the U.S. back in the Great Depression/Dust Bowl days (mid thirties). I many times tease them that I was born just 9 years removed from that time period, and many of us in America were poor and didn't have much either, but we hung in there and they can do the same.

Anyway, it's a real pleasure to be able to keep in touch with all of you through **Fred** and the PA Bugle. Remember to keep all of us (military and civilians) in your prayers.

Best regards/Adios,

**Willie L. Ruffin**  
Senior USDA Advisor  
DST  
COP Sayed Abad, Afghanistan

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

New email address:

**D Bruce Champeon** - dbchampeon@myfairpoint.net

### NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

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

Their names and home states are:

**Bob G. Day, Oklahoma**  
**James R. Fisher, Colorado**  
**Westal W. Fuchs, Texas**  
**John J. Garrett, North Carolina**  
**Richard L. Porter, Colorado**  
**Robert S. Tennant, North Carolina**

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

**Paul W. Koch, Georgia**  
**Wilson T. Moon, Texas**  
**Richard W. Call, California**  
**John M. Jones, North Carolina**  
**Ray C. Murrell, Oklahoma**  
**Richard A. Mack, Indiana**

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



## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

*Marc Safley, Chronicler*

**Kenneth L Williams** was born March 24, 1927, and raised on a dairy farm near Vineyard, UT (about forty miles south of Salt Lake City). He attended public schools through high school. He then enrolled in Brigham Young University. Following his freshman year, he was employed as a W.A.E. Conservation Aid by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). While preparing to return to college he was encouraged to take the Civil Service Examination for a position of Student Trainee. He passed and SCS employed him at several locations in UT. He graduated from "The Y" in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy.

**Ken** married **Jewel Frampton**, his college sweetheart, in 1950 and spent the next two years managing a cattle ranch for her father. He returned to the SCS as a Soil Conservationist in Layton, UT. Between 1954 and 1961 **Ken** served as District Conservationist in Moab, Huntington, Castle Dale, and Beaver, UT. He then accepted a job as Assistant Area Conservationist, with headquarters at Sebastopol, CA. There was a sizable small watershed program in this area; this was his primary responsibility. In the fall of 1963, **Ken** enrolled at the University of Michigan in a Masters program that focused on developing methodologies that entities could use to make better use of economic analysis in resource allocation and utilization policy development. Upon completion, **Ken** was assigned as area conservationist at North Vernon, IN, from June 1963 through January 1965 when he was assigned as State Resource Conservationist for AZ. He was reassigned as Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and Management in Phoenix in 1966. He was promoted to State Conservationist for NM in October 1968 where he served until April 1972. He was then assigned as Western States Field Representative and Director of the West Regional Technical Service Center in Portland, OR. **Ken** transferred to the National Office in 1980 as Deputy Chief for Planning and Evaluation. The most pressing part of his job at this time was completion of the National Conservation Program along with a statement of policy by the President transmitting it to the congress. The primary objective for the program was to ensure that in 2030 our nation could still meet its food and fiber needs. The documents were sent to Congress by President Reagan in December 1982. **Ken** retired March 31, 1983, and returned with **Jewel** to their home in Portland. They moved to Orem, UT, November 1992. Sadly, **Jewel** passed away in February 2001.

**Ken** has always been grateful for **Jewel** and their family. They had three children, a daughter **Joan**, then a son **Steven**, and then another daughter **Janet**. He extends them his thanks and his gratitude for their willingness to accept the many moves they made and for the support they gave in his career. **Joan**, **Steven**, and his wife **Katie** live in Orem. **Janet** and her husband **John Barringer** reside in Matthews, NC. On his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday **Ken** considered his greatest achievement in life to be his three children, fifteen grand children, and thirteen great-grand children.

Most of his years following retirement have been spent as a volunteer in several capacities in his Church. He is an avid genealogist and has assisted numerous families as they traced their ancestors. His wife **Jewel's** genealogy included a large portion of the royalty of England and Europe which added a lot of interest to their research. **Ken** resides, as of March 2011 at 212 South 1100 East, Orem, UT 84097-5754. His telephone is 801-554-9272. He would enjoy hearing from his friends and former colleagues.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Senior Conservationist Paul W. Koch** (85) of Marietta, GA, formerly of Quincy, passed away on March 28, 2011. Paul served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired from the USDA SCS after 35 years of service as a civil engineer. Survivors in addition to his wife of 51 years, **Eileen**, include one daughter, **Kathie (Garth) Wilcox** of Kennesaw, GA; one son, **Alan (Ellen) Koch** of Portland, OR; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. **Paul** was preceded in death by his first wife, **Phylis J. Fahnestock**, and his son, **Michael Oetting**. MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church, 148 Church St. NE, Marietta, GA 30060.

**Louise Sample Powell** (87) of Burlington, NC passed on May 1, 2011. **Louise** moved to NC from KY with her family in 1968. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Robert E. Powell**, who retired as an area conservationist with the SCS in 1983. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Graham, 224 North Main Street, Graham, N.C. 27253.

**Jerome J. Hammond** (69) passed away at his home in Alexandria, VA on May 21, 2011, from leukemia. An agricultural economist, **Jerry** had a 28 year career with the USDA before retiring in 2002 as Director of International Programs Division. He traveled to 35 different countries in an official capacity for the NRCS, the SCS, and the Office of International Cooperation and Development within the USDA. He was active in several professional associations and was a three time President of the USDA Economists Group. **Jerry** is survived by his daughter, **Victoria**, a brother, four sisters, and two half-sisters. Remembrances can be made to the San Juan Historical Museum, P.O. Box 441, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.

## IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

**Charles Raymond Herrington Jr.** (77) passed away on May 13, 2011, in Ellsworth, ME, after suffering from Alzheimer's in recent years. He grew up on a farm in Cherokee, OK and attended Oklahoma State University. For 27 years **Ray** worked throughout Maine for the SCS ending his career in 1983 in Orono. He was a civil engineering technician on the SCS Watershed Planning Staff in Orono serving as the lead CE Technician and also head surveyor. He was also a Certified Land Surveyor in Maine. In retirement, he became an accomplished artist, carving birds and fish. He built his own house. **Ray** is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Barbara B. (Bryce) Herrington**; his sons, **Charles "Chuck" R. (Eileen) Herrington III** of NH, **David B. (Denise) Herrington** of Ellsworth, **Donald L. (Tatyana) Herrington**, of Ellsworth, **Mark T. (Lisa) Herrington** of Franklin, and his AFS son, **Rene A. (Kristyn) Bastias** of CT; and nine grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts in **Ray's** memory to be made to Robert and Mary's Place, P.O. Box 1533, Ellsworth, ME 04605 or Friends in Action, P.O. Box 1446, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

**David J. Somerville** (72) of Layton, UT passed away at home on May 20, 2011, from a short, hard battle with cancer. His childhood was spent working with his dad on the ranch and living like a cowboy. **David** attended Brigham Young University and Utah State University where he graduated with a degree in Range Management and worked for the NRCS in UT and AZ. **David** is survived by his wife, **Judy**, two sons, three daughters, and sixteen grandchildren.

**Honorary Senior Conservationist Wilson Thomas (Bugger) Moon** (99) of Holland, TX passed away on May 17, 2011 at his home. He graduated from Texas A&M University, where he played baseball. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He married **Bess Thompson** in 1942. She preceded him in death in 1997. He married **Dorothy Graham** on Sept. 2, 2000. He worked for the SCS in TX, AR, NM, and IN and retired as state conservationist in IA after 40 years of service. He operated a farm near Holland. He was a Mason. Survivors include his wife, **Dorothy**, of Temple; a stepson, **Bill Graham** of VA; two stepdaughters, **Susan Alexander** of The Woodlands and **Janet Keckeisen** of Dallas, and three grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church organ fund or building fund.

**Senior Conservationist Richard W. Call** (89) of Los Molinos, CA passed away on March 31, 2011 in Chico. He attended Utah State Agricultural College in Logan, UT, graduating in 1943 with a major in agricultural science and a minor in military science. After graduation **Richard** entered the U.S. Army and served as a combat infantry officer in France, Germany and Austria. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He married **Lorene Donaldson** in 1944. He and his wife have four children. He remained in the Army following the WWII serving as a liaison pilot at Fort Benning, GA. He retired from the SCS in 1978 as an Area Conservationist. After retirement, he farmed full time in Tehama County, CA. An oral history of Richard's life is posted at <http://rwcoralhistory.blogspot.com/>.

**Jerald M. "Jerry" Plummer** (77) of Springfield, MO passed away May 24, 2011. **Jerry** proudly served our country in the U.S. Army and in the 101st Airborne Division Band. He served his community as a funeral director for many years. He retired from the USDA SCS. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, **Anita Plummer**; daughter, **Penny (Andy) Fusco**, and three grandchildren.

**Peter Vosper Patterson** (78) of Portland, OR passed away on June 08, 2011. He earned his BS at Oregon State College and his MS at University of Oregon. He was a licensed geologist in OR and CA in engineering geology. **Peter** worked for the SCS, Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and finally, as an independent foreign and domestic consultant until 2008. In 1992 he retired from federal service in Washington, D.C., as a manager of the SCS Water Quality Branch. **Peter** served 34 years active and reserve duty in the U.S. Navy and in 1985 he retired from naval service as Commanding Officer Military Sealift Command Headquarters Unit in Washington, D.C. **Peter** is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Alice**; children, **Leslie (Robert) Bentley**, **Stephen (Connie)**, **Mark (Amy)**, **Christopher**, and **Peter "Pip" (Shannon)**; 20 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Remembrances to OHSU Leukemia Research or St. Patrick Catholic Church Restoration Fund.

**Senior Conservationist John Maynard Jones, Sr.** (96) passed away on May 28, 2011. **John** graduated from NC A&T State University in 1938 with a BS Degree in Agriculture. He began working with the SCS in 1942 when the agency hired a few graduates from "1890" Schools to work primarily with black landowners. Prior to working for SCS, **John** was a principal at Rocky Knoll School, a Rosenwald three-room school in Durham County, NC and he also taught 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Rosenwald Schools were made possible through the Julius Rosenwald Fund administered by Tuskegee Institute. The Rosenwald rural school building program was a major effort to improve the quality of public education for African-Americans in the South in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. About 5,000 Rosenwald Schools were built. **John** was born in Bahama, NC on the same farm where he was living when he died. He was a World War II veteran having served in the Army Air Corps. He was a lifelong member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Bahama and continued the legacy of his own father, who mortgaged his house to fund the church's construction. He is survived by **Mattie**, his wife of 70 years; children **John (Mildren) Jones, Jr** of Stone Mountain, GA, and **Courtney (John) Hall** of Buford, GA, and two grandchildren.

**Wesley Thomas** (71) of Okemah, OK passed away on January 22, 2011. He retired from the SCS in 1994 as the area conservationist in Duncan.

## IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

**Clifford C. Miles** (81) of Springfield, IL and formerly of Terre Haute, IN passed away on May 22, 2011. **Clifford** was a retired SCS Soil Scientist. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret Wilkenson Miles** and daughters, **Lynette L. Damhoff**, **Jennifer S. Sheehan**, and **Sandra K. Linville**; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Roger T. Dunton** (90) passed away at his home in Clearwater, FL on June 19, 2011. **Roger** served in the US Army Infantry in WWII and was the recipient of a Purple Heart for his injuries. He earned BS and MS degrees from the University of Vermont. He served as State Administrative Officer for the USDA SCS in VT for 26 years retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Elizabeth**. They had no children. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Chittenden-Grand Isle Counties Hospice, 110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

**Ralph Edwin Gale** (74) of Keene, KS passed away on June 12, 2011. **Ralph** served in the Air Force from 1954 to 1958. He is survived by his wife **Mary Gale** who retired from the NRCS in 2000. Other survivors include three children, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to Johnson Center for Basic Cancer, Kansas State University Manhattan, KS.

**Dick Kirk** passed away on June 12, 2011. **Dick** retired from the SCS after working as an area conservationist in Lebanon, PA and as the district conservationist in Berks County.

**Ellen "Loretta" Houf** of Clearwater, KS passed away on May 18, 2011. **Loretta** was the wife of **Sam Houf**, former area conservationist for the SCS at Hays, KS. She is survived by a daughter, a step daughter, and a step son.

**Lenard Lewis Schlepp** (90) of St. Francis, KS passed away on May 20, 2011. He retired from the SCS in 1979 as a soil conservation technician. He was preceded in death by: wife, **Alice**, in 2002; and one great-grandchild. Survivors include **Richard "Rick" Schlepp** (former state soil scientist in KS) of Salina, and **Stanley Schlepp**, of Middle-town, MD.; daughters, **Susan Roelfs**, of St. Francis, and **Shelly Farmer**, of Great Bend; 10 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church, St. Francis or the St. Francis Senior Center.

**Imogene "Jean" Mays** (86) of Lebanon, PA passed away on June 16, 2011. She was the wife of **Rodney J. Mays** to whom she was married 50 years. **Rodney** retired from the PA state office of the SCS. She attended Olivet Nazarene University where she became an ordained minister. Surviving, in addition to her husband, are a son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. **Jean** is preceded in death by a son and two grandchildren. Contributions may be made in **Jean's** memory to the Jubilee Prison Ministry, 235 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042.

**Eugene Hart**, of Okmulgee, OK passed away on November 11, 2010. He was a retired soil conservation technician in Tahlequah with the SCS. **Eugene** was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. During the war, **Eugene** was a flight crew chief in the China-Burma-India Theater, flying over the Hump in C-46's. He is survived by his wife **Georgia**.

**Hugh Gilbert Taylor, Jr.** (87) of Barnsdall, OK passed away on April 6, 2011. **Hugh** was soil conservation technician with the USDA SCS for 38 years until his retirement in 1985, working in Beaver, Osage, Nowata, and Washington counties. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Alla Mae Taylor** of the home, one son, one daughter, and five grandsons. A memorial fund has been established and those who wish may send their contributions to the First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 939, Barnsdall, OK, 74002.

**Cecil Nelson Hicks** (91) of Bixby, OK passed away on February 4, 2011. He farmed and worked as a construction inspector for the SCS in Clinton. **Cecil** was preceded in death by two sons. **Cecil** is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Faye**, one son, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Senior Conservationist Ray Chapple Murrell** (95) of Altus, OK passed away on April 10, 2011. He attended Oklahoma State University (then OAMC), where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi in 1938. He taught school at Cameron College for two years before beginning work with the USDA SCS in 1940, retiring after 34 years of service. **Ray** is survived by a son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, **Lucille Hensley Murrell**. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Altus First United Methodist Church., 317 North Main Street, Altus., OK 73521-3105.

**Jeannette J. Riehle** (68) of Spokane, WA passed away on May 18, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, **Harry Riehle**, who retired from the SCS as the state agronomist, daughter **Joy (Greg) Westberg** of Olympia, WA, two sons, **Adin (Cami) Riehle** of Garland UT, and **Lee (Brandy) Riehle** of Spokane Valley, WA, and eight grandchildren.

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**IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)**

**Parker B. Rand Jr.** (63) of Bangor, ME passed away June 25, 2011. **Parker** was employed as an engineering technician on the watershed planning staff in ME and then as a GIS specialist with USDA Farm Service Agency, retiring after 35 years of service. Surviving, in addition to his wife of 42 years **Laura** of Bangor are two children, and four grandchildren. For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to CancerCare of Maine, care of Healthcare Charities, P.O. Box 931, Bangor, ME 04402.

**Donnie Donahoo** (74) of Enid, OK passed away on April 3, 2011. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Agriculture. The family moved to Enid in the mid- 1970s, where he was employed by the USDA NRCS. **Don** is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Lanora** of the home, two children, and three grandchildren. Memorials may be made through the funeral home to Lions Service Foundation, Lions Boys Ranch or Lions Eye Bank.

**Wayne W. Liesemeyer** (80) Lincoln, NE passed away June 7, 2011. **Wayne** served in the Marines as an aviation metal smith and graduated from University of Nebraska Lincoln, receiving a degree in civil engineering. He retired from the SCS as the state irrigation engineer and was passionate about his role in conserving Nebraska water. He is survived by sons **Brent (Sally) Liesemeyer**, Kailua, HI; **Kent (Carla) Liesemeyer**, Tucson, AZ.; **Scott Liesemeyer** and **June Kim**, Aiea, HI; daughters **Lori (Craig) Jumps**, Culbertson, NE; **Tracy Liesemeyer**, Lincoln; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by wife, **Bette L. Liesemeyer**. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be given to the People's City Mission, Lincoln, or Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

**Dorothy R. Reinsch** (81) of Lincoln, NE passed away on March 6, 2011. She was Medical Librarian and wife of **William Reinsch**, a retired agronomist with the SCS. Survivors include her husband, two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorials: St. Elizabeth Hospital Library, St. Josephs Catholic Church.

**Gladys Ullsperger** (84) of Lincoln, NE passed away on December 31, 2010. Survivors include her husband, **Harold**, a retired engineering technician with the SCS, two daughters, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Memorials: Mass Offerings, St. Elizabeth Hospice or Estes Park, Colorado Hospice.

**Senior Conservationist Richard A. Mack** (89), lifelong resident of Helts Prairie, IN passed away on June 27, 2011. He graduated from Purdue University and was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star, and many other medals during his service to his country. **Richard** worked for the SCS for over 30 years in Parke and Vermillion Counties. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, **Mary Ellen** and an infant child, **Karen Sue**. He is survived by his daughter **Kelly (Don) Weinzierl** of Parrish, FL, son **Ronald (Diana) Mack**, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Salem Methodist Church Building Fund, 3456 E. 1050 S. Hillsdale, IN.

**Lester W. 'Les' Swanson** (89) of Willmar, MN passed away on April 2, 2011. **Les** joined the SCS in 1953 and after one year in Owatonna and 12 years in Pipestone, he served 20 years as District Conservationist in Willmar, retiring in 1986. After his retirement he and his wife, **Evelyn**, enjoyed traveling and spending time outdoors. **Les** was involved in the Soil Conservation Society of America and was an avid Barbershop quartet singer as well as volunteering for many organizations. He is survived by his wife, **Evelyn**, as well as four children.