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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter For Retired SCS And NRCS Employees

Vol. 38, No. 5

September/October 2011

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Lennie Losh

Congress on August Recess - The months-long negotiations in the Congress ended with Public Law 112-25 passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. The law does not make any reduction in the \$14.3 trillion national debt. In fact, it will increase the debt in excess of \$2 trillion by early 2013. The law provides for decade long budget cuts of more than \$2 trillion.

A 12-person Congressional committee has been created to address further budget deficit reduction by December of this year. Come December, with no committee agreement, the Congress must vote up or down on \$1.5 trillion budget deficit reduction between 2012 and 2021. Critics believe that this committee will never come to a negotiated agreement. The Democrats say no "Entitlement" changes and the Republicans are saying "no new taxes".

Proposed Bills Affecting Federal Workforce - H.R. 657, the Federal Work Force Reduction Act of 2011 would restrict federal work force hiring; H.R. 1779 would prevent any new federal hiring unless there is no projected budget deficit for the year. The federal workforce has decreased in total size over the last 20 years from 3.114 million employees in 1989 to 2.527 million employees in 2009.

FTC Grocery-Store Rule - The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is seeking public comment through October 19th on a rule that involves store advertised sales. Currently, the rule prohibits food retailers from advertising products at bargain prices to attract customers unless the products are in stock, and available during the effective sales period. The current law is vague as to stores being in violation when their supply is insufficient to meet "reasonably" anticipated demand. 16 CFR, Part 424 spells out the current law.

USDA/NRCS - Current year budget cuts are significantly affecting NRCS programs. One can expect further reductions for FY2011-2012 starting October 1, 2011. Indications are the technical personnel reductions are being spared at the expense of direct financial payment to program participants.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Jerry Hytry, Historian

The first annual ARSCSE banquet was held 37 years ago (1974) on August 12 in San Antonio, Texas. Total membership at that time was 566. About 50 members and friends were expected to attend. **Joe Martin**, Alexandria, Louisiana, was in charge of local arrangements. A major concern revolved around the social preceding the banquet. The Hotel Syracuse had a policy that revenue from a cash bar had to exceed \$200 or there would be a \$40 barman's charge. Drinks ranged in price from \$1.10 - \$1.25. **President Roy Hockensmith** decided against the cash bar since he felt the revenue would not exceed \$200.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Berkland, President

Greetings from Daniel Island, SC. To give you a little better idea as to where I live, Daniel Island is within the cooperate limits of Charleston, SC. For those that do not know me, I worked for SCS/NRCS in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, South Carolina, and Washington DC. It will be my pleasure to serve as your President for the next two years and along with your Board of Director's work to make this organization even stronger and more meaningful to you. Any suggestions you have, please share them with your Regional Vice-President and/or myself at anytime. The regional Vice-Presidents contact information as well as mine is on the front page of this newsletter.

I want to extend our thanks to **Gus Dornbusch** and **Tom Badger** who have just completed their two year terms as Past President and President, respectively. I also want to extend our thanks to **Ida Cuthbertson**, who has served for six years as Regional Vice President for the South and chose to not run for re-election. I look forward to working with **Arnold King** who will be the new Regional Vice-President for the South. We also need to thank **Ron Marlow** for the excellent work he does as Sec/Treas and in making the arrangements for our Annual Meeting. Good job, **Ron!!!**

We held our annual meeting of ARCSE in Washington D.C in conjunction with the SWCS annual meeting on July 18th and 19th. All new and outgoing Board members attended the July 18th Board meeting. All action items from the previous year were completed. The Board decided to ask our membership to see how many of the members would agree to receiving the newsletter electronically (see July/August newsletter). Over 60% of our expenses are attributed to printing and mailing the newsletter. If we can send the newsletter electronically to most of our membership, this will result in a substantial savings to our Organization. Anyone that cannot or prefers to not receive it electronically would continue to receive a printed copy.

I asked **Tom Badger**, Past President, if he would agree to also serve as our new Membership Chairperson and he has accepted. We basically have two concerns regarding membership which are: 1) making sure that as folks retire, they are invited to become members and 2) following-up (conservation planning term-I am sure you remember) with folks that have let their membership lapse. I am confident **Tom** will do an excellent job resulting in increased membership this year. Another initiative for this year will be periodic conference calls with all Board members to provide an opportunity to monitor our budget and better support membership initiatives.

At the Annual Meeting Luncheon, four President's Outstanding Community Service Awards were announced. They went to: **Nevin L. Ulery** - Pennsylvania, **Byron Thompson** - South Carolina, **Paul Whittington** - Arkansas and **Bill Roth** - Kansas. We were all pleased that **Bill** and his wife **De** were present to accept the award. President **Tom Badger** presented the Distinguished Service Award to **Rich Deusterhaus**.

Those attending the Annual Meeting Luncheon on July 19th were: **Tom Badger, KS; Mark Berkland, SC; Jay Blair, MI; Karen Blair, MI; Neil Bogner, MD; Eleanor Bogner, MD; Cecil Currin, MA; Lou Currin, MA; Ida Cuthbertson, FL; Rich Deusterhaus, VA; Gus Dornbusch, NE; Doug Helms, VA; Arnold King, TX; Willeene King, TX; Bruce Knight, VA; Bob Kohnke, VA; Warren Lee, VA; Barbara Lee, VA; Lennie Losh, OH; Jude Mollenhauer, OH; Ron Marlow, VA; Ann Marlow, VA; Mike Nethery, UT; Julia Norton, AL; George Norris, GA; Ellen Norris, GA; Gene Pate, NC; Phyllis Pate, NC; Dave Ralston, VA; Maragret Ralston, VA; Frank Resides, PA; Jane Resides, PA; Bill Roth, KS; De Roth, KS; Neil Sampson, VA; Harold Thompson, IN; Wally Ochs, VA; Jerry Richard, WA; Carl Bouchard, DE; and Leonard Jordan, DC**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Richard L. Duesterhaus



Richard Duesterhaus is shown receiving his award from Past President **Tom Badger** and President **Mark Berkland**. **Rich** served as President of ARCSE in 2006-2007 and has been a leader and advocate for the ARCSE since. He freely gives of his time when called upon to provide assistance to the board and his service has been invaluable. His leadership, vision, wise counsel, and organizational knowledge reflect his enthusiasm, love, and dedication to the organization.

**DEADLINE FOR
NOV/DEC 2011
NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 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

PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

William E. Roth



William "Bill" Roth is shown receiving his award from **Mark Berkland**, ARCSE President. **Bill's** wife, **De**, was present for the ceremony. **Bill**, a retired State Soil Scientist, was recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the community and churches of Lindsborg, KS, the Smoky Valley Community Foundation, the Lindsborg Tree Board, the Associated Churches of Lindsborg, the McPherson County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and his Kiwanis Club. His sustained efforts have resulted in improved community health, numerous church renovations, a new community playground, and assistance to economically disadvantaged households. He has been an Earth Team volunteer for 16 years helping the Kansas soils staff update their databases and other related efforts.

The following winners were not present at the ARCSE Annual Meeting. When photographs of their award presentations are made available, they will be published in future issues of the Newsletter.

Paul F. Whittington

Paul received this award in recognition of improvements to natural resources through his dedicated leadership to Conservation Districts and the Arkansas River Valley Resource and Conservation District. **Paul**, a retired Area Conservationist, has never retired as his wife will attest. He has been recognized for his leadership by the Arkansas Association of RC & D Councils, and the Association of Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He and his wife **Faye** are members of the Charleston United Methodist Church where **Paul** has held several positions of leadership. **Paul** has been active in the American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars, and early in his career as a member of the Arkansas National Guard he was called to active duty in Korea for two years.

Nevin L. Ulery

Nevin received this award in recognition of his dedicated church leadership, his sustained efforts in communities around the world assisting the elderly, Native Americans, and other economically disadvantaged with food, clothing, school desks and supplies, and renovations to a hospital, a women's shelter, and numerous homes. Some examples

of his dedicated service to the community are his work with the Mission Committee of Central Highlands Community United Methodist Church of Elizabeth Township in Allegheny County, Four Corners Native American Ministry on the Navajo Reservation, the Heart and Hand House in Phillippi, WV, Scott's Run Settlement House, Osage, WV, and through his church, several other community-based programs to assist the elderly, sick, or otherwise disadvantaged individuals and families.

Byron Thompson

Byron was recognized for making his community and state a better place to live through outstanding leadership and dedicated service to his church, school district, local conservation programs, and work on a variety of legislative issues and a county wide land use and zoning plan. He has served as a volunteer with the McCormick School District studied and recommended the site for a new school complex and has since been elected to the School Board of Trustees. He is active in the McCormick United Methodist Church serving on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and Board of Trustees. **Byron** is a Christ Care leader with the service mission to help individuals and families with problems maintaining their property or other social/economic concerns. Besides his activities with the Soil and Water Conservation District, he serves on the McCormick Forestry Association, McCormick County Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations.

We congratulate all of our winners. They deserve our praise and honor and are but a few examples of self-less service provided by so many of you. We encourage the ARCSE Representatives and Regional Vice-Presidents to continue to nominate others who may be equally deserving of these awards.

ARKANSAS

M. J. "Whitey" Spears, ARCSE Representative
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The 26th consecutive annual meeting of AR retirees will occur on Sept. 22, 2011 at the Arkansas 4-H Center at Ferndale, near Little Rock, AR. The meeting will be for mainly visitation and story telling, except we will have a 30 minute program to Pledge our Allegiance to our Flag, a memorial to recognize those who have passed during the year, and to recognize an award winner.

We are very pleased that **Paul Whittington** has won the ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service. Since he was unable to attend the national meeting to receive the award, we will present the plaque to him. In addition to being an outstanding Area Conservationist, he has continued his efforts to assist people in his communities and this award recognizes this, as it is not based on his work for the NRCS/SCS.

John Henry and **George Dahlke** continue to do a great job of getting the retirees in the Little Rock/North Little Rock area together for a luncheon and a great "gabfest". There are always new stories, some true I am sure, in addition to the old ones. It is always an "upbeat bunch", proud of their services, rightly so, who participate in these meetings. Present for the August meeting, in addition to **George Dahlke** and **John Henry**, were **Bert Finch**, **Charles Wilson**, **Bob Bush**, **Robert Cantrell**, **Jim Arrington**, and **Whitey Spears**.

ARIZONA

Vacant - ARCSE Representative

Karl Klingelhofer's report - Got back from a 5-week trip to Europe on June 25. Cruised from Venice to Istanbul with stops on the way; 14-day land tour of Croatia that included Bosnia and Montenegro; 5 days in Germany driving 1150 miles to attend **Klingelhofer** name reunion and short visits to Berlin and Leipzig that I hadn't seen for 32 years. My claim to fame is a speeding ticket in Germany. It was a great trip.

GEORGIA

George Norris, ARCSE Representative

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For their quarterly gathering, twenty Georgia NRCS/SCS retirees and spouses from the Athens area enjoyed lunch together at the Picadilly Restaurant in Athens on July 28, 2011. Attending were: **Judith Helm, Marjorie Lucas, Linda DiPietro, Carolyn Adams, Cecil & Gene Martin, Talbert Gerald, Edna Firor, Vivian Patten, Bob & Frances Wilkes, June Andrews, Richard & Barbara Andersen, Billy & Norma White, Rick Main, Pat Robison, and George & Ellen Norris.** Events of interest, accidents and illnesses, travel, before retirement memories and, yes, grandchildren were discussed.

Judith Helm shared with the group details of retired agronomist, **Jimmy Dean's** accident and his progress in recovery. **Jimmy** was putting a cover on his boat in his yard during the last week in June and fell from the boat hitting the ground on his head and neck. He suffered severe spinal cord injury and paralysis from the fall. Following lengthy ICU hospitalization **Jimmy** was transferred to Walton Rehabilitation Hospital in Augusta. **Judith's** husband, **Jim Helm**, continues to spend a lot of time with **Jimmy**, assisting with his care. They report that **Jimmy** is extremely determined and is working so hard to recover. Our latest report is that **Jimmy** is getting stronger and is regaining use of his arms and legs. Complications continue to come up but he's looking forward to getting home and to a full recovery. Keep **Jimmy** and **Lori Dean** and his caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

Vivian Patten reported that a memorial scholarship has been established at Georgia Tech in memory of her late husband, **E. John Patton.** **John** was a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Civil Engineering and enjoyed a distinguished career with SCS as a Civil Engineer. He contributed greatly to the conservation of our natural resources over an extended career. The scholarship carries **John's** name and will be awarded to Civil Engineering students.

George & Ellen Norris shared their experience attending the ARCSE Luncheon in Washington, D.C. It was an outstanding event. They spent several days with their children and grandchildren in the Richmond, VA area and while there traveled to Washington by train for the day and the luncheon. Enjoying the day with friends and work associates was a great experience.

On the way back to GA from Richmond, VA, **George & Ellen** enjoyed a Cracker Barrel lunch with **Craig & Jo Right** and a brief visit at their home in Burlington, NC. Even though their traveling is limited now the **Rights** are well and active. The two couples have many fond memories dating back to 1976 when **Craig** became State Conservationist in WV. Their friendship, established during working days with SCS, has continued through a combined total of nearly 50 years of retirement.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

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On July 13 a group of SCS retirees from southwest IL gathered at the Maverick Steak House in Litchfield for lunch and visiting. Attending were **Dana & Barbara Grantham, Don Phillips, Mook & Helen Allen, Lee Bridgman, John Burns, Don & Martha Long, Charles Sykes, and John & Patty Paden.**

After lunch, each retiree gave an update of what has been going on in their life. **John Paden** reports that some of these guys can tell some very funny stories that have taken place in their life. Can't we all! Does meeting at the 'Maverick' Steak House have anything to do with this group? This group gets together the second Wednesday of July each year and invite any and all to their gathering.

We are sorry to report the death of **Cliff Miles** on May 22. (See July/August IN MEMORIAM.) **Cliff** was living in Springfield at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret**, and daughters **Lynette, Jennifer, and Sandra.** We extend our sympathy to **Margaret** and their family.

The next lunch and gathering for SCS/NRCS retirees in Illinois is Oct. 6, 2011 at Ryan's Steak House in Champaign beginning at 11:30. All are invited.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative

Our holiday party will be Nov. 17, 2011 at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Des Moines. Anyone who would like to join us, please contact **Marge Miller**, (515) 225-8264. You are guaranteed to have a good time.

Jan Schmidt, Ames, is a proud great-grandmother. **Sadie Lynn** arrived April 22, 2011. **Jan** continues to compete in dance roller skating and has been at meets in IL and WI this year. **Jan** and I attended our 6th District American Legion Auxiliary meeting in Des Moines on April 30th. We are both very involved with our Units in Ames and Des Moines respectively.

A note from **Rosie Gaudette** - On the morning of March 19th, **Bob** and I, and **Maralee Sarasio**, met **Judy & Mark Clause** for breakfast in Altoona. **Judy & Mark** were going to IN to see her great-niece compete in a swim meet at Purdue University. A note from **Judy** after she and **Mark** returned home said they went from the swim meet to visit her brother in MI. They went to a Tiger's game - had fun but got rained out. From there it was to western MI to spend time with her niece and family before heading back to Sioux City. **Judy's** last name was **Rathel** when she was the area clerk in Sioux City.

Volney Smith, with his son, **Paul** and family, recently returned from a 10-day Alaskan cruise. They sailed from San Francisco to Skagway and back with stops in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Victoria, B. C. They saw many eagles but few whales. Tracy Arm Fjord had lots of icebergs.

Marge Miller reports a wonderful experience on a recent trip to England to visit the world famous Chelsea Flower Show, flower gardens, and castles. Some of her favorite places besides the spectacular Chelsea Flower Show, were Hever Castle, Tunbridge Wells, Groombridge Gardens and Enchanted Forest, Penhurst Place and Gardens, Chartwell

(Winston Churchill's family home), Battle, Pashley Manor Gardens, Batemans (author Rudyard Kipling's home) Sheffield Park, Sissinghurst, Smallhythe Place, Bodian Castle, Great Dixter Gardens, Emmette Gardens, and the 1066 Battle of Hastings Abbey and Battlefield. The weather was perfect for sightseeing – only 20 in the group. Their vehicle had to wait in traffic for President Obama's cavalcade to pass!

Loren & Alma Elliott, Mesa, AZ spent several weeks in Des Moines this summer. We are always glad to have them join our breakfast bunch. **Loren** participated in a Bridge Tournament while here.

For those of you from "way back when" – **Loren** told us of the death in April of **John Worster**. **John & Helen** have lived in Fayetteville, AR for many years. **John** retired as an assistant state soil scientist in our Ames soils office in the early 1980's. Expressions of sympathy and memorials can be sent to Helen at 2432 Azalea Terrace, Fayetteville, AR 72703-4203. **Loren & Alma** have visited the **Worster's** many times on their trips back to Des Moines.

Don Ummel reported that **Wilson Moon**, who retired as State Conservationist in IA in 1974, passed away at his home in Holland, TX on May 17, 2011. He was 99 years of age but had remained actively involved with his cattle ranch.

Also, **Connie Spangler** passed away August 17, 2011. She worked in Personnel her entire career beginning in 1957 or '58 and retired in 1979. She is survived by her husband, **Richard**, a son, **Kyle Forst**, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They have been residents of The Village, a Wesley Community in Indianola, IA.

Good news – **Howard Hughes** celebrated his 94th birthday on July 14th. He was our guest at breakfast a few weeks ago. Happy Birthday from all of us.

Duane Miller's ski group made their annual trek to CO again this past Jan. No reports of broken bones or cracked heads. Most recently, **Duane** was part of a group who passed out pounds and pounds of bananas and gallons of water to bikers on the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI). I saw a picture of a guy on TV during the ride dressed like a banana and in a banana-shaped boat fitted over his bicycle but it turned out not to be **Duane**.

Deane Glen and **Margaret Hemphill** are faithful volunteers at information booths at the State Fair. After our very hot weather in July, the first few days of the fair were 80-82 degrees. It did warm up the last few days but not like some years and not like July.

Jack and I attended the 55th Annual Midwest Tour (antique cars) in Decorah June 20-24. Our tour director grew up in the area so we got to enjoy the back roads and small towns, places one probably would not see if you just went to Decorah. Highlights included the Vesterheim Museum (Norwegian Heritage), Dunning Springs, and one of the Internet Eagles flying over the fish hatchery in Decorah; Effigy Mounds National Monument along the Mississippi River on our way to Prairie Du Chien to see Villa Louis, a Victorian estate that once belonged to one of Wisconsin's most prosperous families, the Dousman family, who were fur traders in the early 1800's; in Spillville we saw the Bily Clock Museum – the clocks intricately hand carved by the Bily brothers during the winter months on the farm beginning in 1913, and the beautiful St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. In

the town of Clermont there is a small church called the Union Sunday School built in 1863, which has a Kimball pipe organ installed in 1896 by Iowa's 12th governor, William Larrabee, for his daughter. The organ has 1,554 pipes, some more than 16 feet high. It cost \$3000 new and is worth \$500,000 now. It requires restoration every 20-30 years – restored in 1910, 1924, 1937, during the '50's, 1979 and in 2010 at Lake View, IA. A professor from Luther College gave a concert on it. It is still the largest Kimball pipe organ of its kind (tubular pneumatic action) existing in the United States today. The sound was magnificent. From there we went up the hill outside of town to Montauk, which was Governor Larrabee's home. It has many similarities to Terrace Hill. The last day of the tour we went to Niagara Cave at Harmony, MN just over the state line. I had not been there since I was about the age of 11 or 12. The day ended with a stop at "Seed Savers" a farm that raises many heirloom plants. After the banquet that evening and breakfast next morning, it was time to say good-bye until next year when the tour will be in the Fargo area. On our way back to Des Moines, we took many of the lesser traveled roads as we like to drive into the small towns. We drove through 17 before stopping in Amana for supper.

By the time you read this, we'll be in Auburn, IN to a Central Regional Early Ford V-8 Club Meet. Auburn is the home of many transportation museums including the new Early Ford V-8 Museum and the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum which is in what was the lavish showroom, art deco style, of Duesenberg in the 1930's.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Kansas has had a very hot and dry summer breaking many records dating back to the 1930's. Even so, I heard some of our retirees have been out and about. **Guy McClaskey** (former Assistant State Conservationist) has been fishing in MN catching a lot of nice walleye and has enjoyed an Alaskan cruise. **Bill Roth** (former State Soil Scientist) has recently returned from Washington, DC where he received the ARCSE President's Outstanding Community Service Award for his volunteer efforts. **Jean Hamilton (Vernon Hamilton's widow)** also visited Washington where she met her son and his family from New Delhi, India where they are presently residing.

Three retirees have passed away recently (see In Memoriam). Our new retirees include: **Rick Porter**, RC&D Coordinator, from the Ottawa RC&D Office; **Dollie M. Mathes**, Office Automation Assistant, from the Harper RC&D Office; **Rodney L. Marcotte**, Supervisory District Conservationist, from the La Crosse Field Office; **Francis J. Hillebrand**, Soil Conservation Technician, from the Norton Field Office; **Erma J. Leuthold**, Office Automation Clerk, from the Plant Materials Center located in Manhattan; and **Thomas L. Flowers**, District Conservationist, from the Meade Field Office.

What are some of the KS retirees doing? **John Ourada** (former State Conservation Engineer) states that he does a lot of volunteering through the local Volunteer Connection and church. His biggest commitment is driving veterans to their medical appointments at the medical centers in Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City. He also is president of the local NARFE chapter which will be hosting next year's state convention in Salina. The past year he did some professional engineering work through a consulting firm, which had a contract with NRCS, working on upgrading old SCS dams.

Eldon Schwant (former District Conservationist for Nemaha County) is presently serving as the president for the Kansas SCS/NRCS Retiree Association. At our annual meeting he gave everyone a lighted bottle which when lit is very colorful. He is the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees/Seniors person for Nemaha County working 20 hours per week. Volunteer duties include Chairman of the Nemaha County Recycling Committee, President of NARFE for the Nemaha County Chapter, and Treasurer of the Seneca Lions Clubs.

Leroy Pritchard, (former District Conservationist for Lyon County) has a small natural resources consulting business and is doing some soil conservation surveys which includes a few small watershed dams but is mostly doing COE jurisdictional wetland evaluations for watershed districts. He also does some watershed dam annual inspections. Since his retirement he and his wife have taken several mission trips to Jordan. Altogether he has lived nearly a year in Jordan working on water resource projects that included construction of new concrete irrigation canals. This involved upgrading canals that had been initially installed by the Romans in the 5th and 6th centuries. On their last trip they lived for six weeks at Wadi Musa which is located just outside the main entrance into Petra. Petra dates back to about 700 BC. They also camped in the Wadi Rum desert in the vicinity of where Lawrence of Arabia caused havoc for the Turks during World War 1.

KENTUCKY

Kenneth Overhults, *ARCSE Representative*
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The newsletter this year is comprised of inputs by eight retirees who were willing to share their past year with the rest of us. **Tom Marcum** has arranged for the annual reunion to be held at General Butler State Park near Carrollton. The meeting will be Oct. 11, beginning at 10:00 local time. The room will be available at 9:00 for visiting and socializing. New State Conservationist, **Karen Woodrich**, is expected to update us on activities of NRCS. The Park address is 1608 Hwy 227 as you go into Carrollton from I-71. Rooms for Oct. 10 may be reserved by calling 866 462-8853 and telling them you are with SCS/NRCS Retirees Assoc. The rate is \$69.95 plus tax.

Dwain Abell reports the death of **Bob Eddleman** on Dec 16th. **Dwain** must have spent a good portion of the winter somewhere other than Mayfield as the mailbox on his telephone stayed full most of the winter. Others who passed away during the year were **Tom Leathers**, **Bob Palmer**, **Ben Sharpe**, and **Harold Woodward**. It has been learned that **David McDavid**, **Ray Partin**, **David Reed**, and **Gene Tyler** died in previous years, but have not been reported.

Linda Fryman celebrated her retirement with a trip to Hawaii in Feb. She volunteers at her church preparing slides for the worship service. She says thank goodness for all the time spent learning computer skills at NRCS. She is also active in her Homemaker Club and she enjoys sewing, crochet, reading, and gardening.

Don Henry reports excessive rainfall in Winchester during Apr. and May. He spent a month visiting his daughter and family in the Panama Canal Zone enjoying coffee, pineapple, and dairy farms. Their home is inland near Bouquette, the highest point in the Canal Zone. He says he was there during the change from the wet to dry season, the only seasons they have. The temperature is 80-85 during the wet season and

hotter during the dry season. He enjoyed playing some golf. **Don** also reports that he and his children have purchased a home near Conley Bottom overlooking Cumberland Lake and that he hopes to do more fishing there.

Ralph E. Johnson reports a second retirement. This time from farming and showing TN Walking Horses. He and his wife, **Romanza**, live on Cemetery Road, Bowling Green. If passing give him a call.

Kenneth Overhults is recovering after losing his wife, **Patty Jo**, to MS following a 20 year battle. He is staying busy with NARFE, FarmHouse Fraternity fund raising, and ARCSE/NRCS retiree activities.

Dick & Joyce Quiggins are logging the miles this year. In Jan. it was a cruise to the Eastern Caribbean. In Apr. they were off on a bus tour to Charlestown, SC and Ft. Sumter. And in Aug. they will be on their way to Yellowstone on another bus tour. **Joyce** has been a volunteer at the Central Baptist Hospital surgery waiting room for several years.

Frank & Mary Nell Scudder along with **Billy & Betty Milliken** represented KY at the State Conservationist and Friends meeting at Calloway Gardens. The highlight of the trip was being hosted by **Edward & Lynn Callaway**, descendants of the original **Calloway** family.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, *ARCSE Representative*
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Our leader, **Marlene**, was not available for our July 13 meeting - she and her daughter were visiting the "Burgenland Homeland" the eastern state of Austria. She convinced **Margy & Micki Gangl** and me (**Vic Ruhland**) to take over and handle the luncheon at Pippins in Roseville. We had a nice turnout: **Dave & Kay Breitbach**, **Tom & Irene Faragher**, **Bud Finney**, **Margy & Micki Gangl**, **Al Giencke**, **John Handler**, **Justin Jeffery**, **Gloria McCalip**, **Cathy McCormack**, **Howard Midje**, **Sylvia & Ron Olson**, **Vic Ruhland**, **Kay Schoen & Craig Tennison**, **Kim Steffen**, **Harvey Sundmacker**, and **John Torgerson**. Planning to attend were **Bill & Ruth Brune** but weren't able to make it.

Dave & Kay Breitbach have been busy with graduations, birthdays, and redecorating the family farmhouse in IA - in addition to the constant lawn sprinkling and mowing that we all have been doing.

Tom & Irene Faragher along with his brother had a most enjoyable time touring the Leinenkugel Brewery in Chippewa Falls, WI back in June. **Irene** says that more beer was available for them than what they could consume.

Bud Finney - keeps busy with gardening, volunteering for the Univ. of MN master gardening program, and spending time with his dear friend **Jan**. To him weather conditions are most important especially as it affects his garden. Summer was a bit late in arriving but it began full strength in late June with most days in the upper 80s and a few in the low 90s. About 4 inches of rain fell in Roseville recently. His beans and tomatoes are happy now. He spent a week fishing in June with his son **Bruce** (professor at Idaho State Univ.) who is strictly a fly fishermen. They had a great time. His daughter

Deb with her family (husband **Jeff** and children **Bryan** and **Sarah**) will come for a visit the last week in July. They plan to be at a lake cabin most of the time.

Margy & Micki Gangl thought they might have an email from **Marlene**, but nothing has arrived - she must be having too much fun in Burgenland. **Grandma & Grandpa Gangl** came from two adjoining towns to the one **Marlene** is visiting. **Margy & Micki** visited there twice (many years ago) and know all too well all the wonderful eating/drinking/visiting that is going on. The **Gangls** are looking forward to their next trip this fall. This time it's to Western Europe.

Al Giencke was still in high heaven from being the big winner at a Sheephead (Schafkopf) card party some of were at the night before. **Justin Jeffery** says no flooding problems this spring in Benson, MN. Earlier this spring he had told me of his concern about the possible flooding in Benson from the Chippewa River.

Gloria McCalip is proud of her granddaughter's role in games and tournaments of a traveling soccer team. **Cathy McCormack** tells us that this July is an exciting month for her: her grandson Cody Nelson's 6th birthday party, she attending a reunion of childhood friends and her 41st high school class reunion. She and Don plan to tour the Lansboro, MN area in August and stay in a B&B while in Lansboro. **Howard Midje** - nothing new just blowing snow and mowing grass most of the time.

Sylvia & Ron Olson - Ron & Sylvia have been busy traveling: Las Vegas in Mar. for their daughter's wedding; Aberdeen, SD in Apr. to visit the last uncle; Bozeman, MT in May for their son's graduation, and Merrill, WI in June to visit the last aunt. They were blessed with a great granddaughter, **Addison Rose**, last Jan. "Family is what it is all about. Life is really good and we are happy."

Vic Ruhland learned that he is not the only one with small tomatoes so far this year. He has received favorable comments on the report he developed and made available to the retirees group. The report, "Gilbert Schultz - an Early SCS Employee with Administrative Skills" covers the role that one of our retirees played in the early days of SCS. **Gil's** skills were definitely different from most the first employees of the agency who were mostly conservationists, soil scientists, engineers, and technicians. He is also credited with organizing our MN retirees group many years ago. He died last fall.

Kay Schoen & Craig Tennison were with us. After being a widow for many years she and **Craig** married last spring. This was **Kay (Schoen) Tennison's** first meeting with our retirees group - also **Craig's**.

Kim Steffen - we welcome him to our retirees group. He retired at the end of June. It still feels like he is still on annual leave at this point, he says.

Harvey Sundmacker - was good to see **Harvey** again. We haven't seen him in quite a while.

John Torgerson - no new news. They must be looking forward to winter for he did tell us that they still go to Tarpon Springs, FL in Nov., come back for Christmas and New Years, and go back to FL until Apr. where they play golf, bowl, and walk around the Gulf for exercise.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative
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We welcome new retirees **Clayton Lee**, State Soil Scientist and **Laura Cowart**, Area Administrative Coordinator to our ranks.

Pat Beneke: I hope everyone is enjoying this cool break from the warm weather. Even with the heat we have been pretty busy. Our two sons and their families joined us in SW MO in July. We initially went to Roaring River State Park. Just standing by the river seemed to cool the temperature several degrees. We did catch enough fish to have one dinner. Then we all moved to Branson and stayed several days at Table Rock State Park where we had no luck fishing but did enjoy some shows..... **Bill** and I have had the granddaughters with us for a week. Even though the weather was miserably hot we did still have fun outdoors. We managed to do some hiking and walked back to see a large spring that feeds into the lake at Ha Ha Tonka and then up to an old castle that was started in 1905 by a Kansas City businessman who died in 1906. It was finished by the original builders' sons in the 1920s and then burned in 1942. Missouri acquired it as a state park in 1978 and opened it to the public. A lot of the walls are still standing. The hike back to the spring was mostly flat and shaded. The other hike was mostly in the sun and really hot. Another day we took a drive to find what they call the tunnel dam. It was built before Bagnell Dam and still generates a little electricity. It backs up a small shallow lake on the Niangua River. It took us awhile to find it after leaving a blacktop road and some backtracking on gravel roads that kept getting more and more like field roads but we finally found it. The area is supposed to look like Lake of the Ozarks after it was first constructed. **Bill** and I also braved the heat and took the girls to the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield. The temperature was about 105 that day and the only shade in the ride area was from other rides. We did have to take some cool air breaks and went in the air conditioned exhibit buildings. We were all dog tired at the end of that day! The girls had fun getting in as many rides as possible and **Bill** and I even went on some of them. The Ferris wheel was nice as it had a breeze when you got high. Of course, swimming in the lake, and shopping for school clothes and supplies was also part of the visit. We really had a fun time and enjoy having them visit..... Now we are heading to the Pacific Northwest. I have a high school class reunion in Spokane WA. **Bill** and I plan on taking our time and including a lot of sight-seeing and will also spend time visiting relatives while in that region.

Buck Burch: Nothing to report from the **Burches** except for a brown lawn and a gigantic water bill!!

From **Keith Davis**: We've been travelling some. Spent a week in Panama City Beach, FL with family, and went on a mission's trip with our church to a multi-tribal native-American reservation in northern MN. We are presently keeping our grandson, since his daycare is closed for the week. That takes us way back in time. I'm also in the process of cutting firewood for the winter. I've fished some, and plan to do more.

From **Jess Epple** (MO retiree living in his native OK): Hope 'you all' have had a reliable cooling system in your residence and vehicle these past weeks. This heat reminds me of summer 1953 here in Muskogee County (OK). Grass burned up, ponds & water wells went dry and back

then we didn't have A/C. Oklahoma's # 1 again! No, not college football -- we were the hottest state in the Nation this summer. I hope this winter doesn't also set records like last winter!..... Considering the drought conditions here in "Oklahoma Green Country", our spring calves are doing well. The full time ranch hands at J P Ranch have some issues, however! It's too hot to get much "bob-wire" fence built. **Phyllis**, just don't work well when the temperatures get above 114 degrees! I do like company when I work, so I guess fence building will have to be put off until cool weather arrives. We have started getting some rain the past week and we believe the drought will end soon. Stocker calves are a good price, but the input costs have nearly doubled so the profit margin is still close. Please support your local beef producer by buying (Angus) beef. It's just 'choked full' of protein, minerals, & vitamins that many SCS/NRCS folks need to continue an active fun filled life style. Be well, enjoy retirement & pray for cool weather!

Norm Klopfenstein spent three weeks in June on his third safari to South Africa. He harvested six animals including an Eland with 40 inch horns that weighed 1,800 pounds. The smallest animal was a Mountain Reedbuck, which is about the size of our Whitetail deer doe. **Norm** said the weather was sunny and warm in one area he hunted and windy, cold with snow in another mountainous area.

Retirees **Tommy Deberry, Al Wolfe, Norm Klopfenstein**, and working NRCS employee, **Marty Comstock** spent 9 days at a remote fly-in fishing outpost camp in northwest Ontario the first part of Aug. Stories differ somewhat, but a reliable source reports they caught several hundred fish (Walleyes and a few good Northern Pike). The group experienced good weather but smoke from forest fires caused by lightning strikes added a smoky flavor to their adventure.

Lyle Noblitt says: It has been a long hot summer. We have 70 acres of corn in the river bottoms that has 5 feet of water on it since July 11th and still there. **Mary** and I visited our son in PA where he is working on laying a new pipeline. Saw a bear there and then on to Niagara Falls. Visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame and **Lehman's** at Kidron, OH. We also visited Branson with ole Chillicothe bowling team. I played golf at Branson Creek and Murder Rock and saw two shows, Presley's and Six. Both were good.

From **Jim Sturm**: Well, just getting around toward being in a traveling mood. I traveled to the Hollister and Eureka Springs area during the last week of July to visit a friend's cousin. Then in a few days, I'll be heading to the Windy City for a family reunion for about 10 days. About the 3rd weekend of Sept., I'll be performing with the Calamity Jane Shootout Gang during the Calamity Jane Days celebration in Princeton. The Shootout Gang will be performing 3 times on the Saturday, Sept. 17th beginning at 10 AM. I'll probably be in the outlaw group as usual. Then, in Oct., I'll be going to the Lake of the Ozarks on a fishing trip and another trip to the Hollister area for some more fall R and R.

Wayne Weaver had both knees replaced in June and has started out-patient physical therapy. He decided to name both new knees, Rice Crispies... they snap, crackle, and pop.

The Columbia Area retirees had their quarterly luncheon at the Country Kitchen on August 10. Those in attendance were: **Bill Pauls, Louis Studer, Jean Herman** (who reports she still loves being retired), **John and Carol McCarthy**,

Darlene Edwards, Don Williams, Roger Hansen, Mike Wells (newly retired again, from MoDNR) **Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Frank Miller and Dave Rastorfer**. The next breakfast will be at the Country Kitchen on November 9th 2011 at a new time, 8:00 AM

The annual SCS/NRCS retiree's luncheon will be held in Sedalia on September 8th.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative
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Scott Hoag's report: Summer is about over and **Scott & Nancy** will be back on the road with a new RV (Fifth wheel) building with Habitat for Humanity - in Artesia, NM, then Lenore, NC and down to Thibodeau, LA. After that they're not sure - hopefully Ft. Lauderdale, FL or Alice, TX.

Gooby Ranch Report: We live in an area where you can't grow any crops unless it's irrigated. Our irrigation system is all hand lines and needs moved twice a day. **Mary Ann** moves all the hand lines as well as does the other ranch work since I'm always tied up getting ready for a conference call, etc. She is really efficient moving the hand lines. After I trained her on how to lift with her legs, she is able to pick the pipe up and run to the next location. We have a lot of hand lines so **Mary Ann** is really busy with the pipe moving all summer.

She was wondering about the possibility of putting in wheel line laterals as it would save her a lot of time and be a lot less work. I did an economic evaluation and couldn't pencil it out. **Mary Ann's** time savings don't justify the cost of the wheel lines. It's true that if she wasn't moving hand lines she could be doing other work.

Since I couldn't pencil it out, I contacted **Jerry Schaefer** NRCS State Economist, for MT who really knows his stuff to do an evaluation to see if it would be feasible to switch to wheel lines. His evaluation was the same as mine, in that using the cost of moving the hand lines to justify the investment of the wheel lines wasn't there.

Jerry suggested we do a full ranch economic evaluation to see if the time **Mary Ann** would save was used for some of the other ranch activities would justify the wheel lines. **Jerry's** evaluation showed that since **Mary Ann** was already doing all the work the time saved not moving the hand lines would simply free time at no cost savings that could be used to justify installing wheel lines.

Mary Ann asked him how the neighbors justified installing wheel lines. He said they could because they were using hired labor to move the pipes and by cutting out that labor expense they could justify wheel line. But since we didn't have any labor expense we couldn't justify the change.

The Indian Nations Conservation Alliance board members held a meeting in Bozeman to update their strategic plan. You can't believe what a great job they do. You really have to admire people that volunteer their time to work on conservation district activities and state and national association work. These guys are sharp and dedicated to "Caring for Mother Earth." Conservation district board members, State association board members and NACD board members are the same way. It is fantastic to work with dedicated people who care.

After work one evening we went up to Highlight Reservoir which is way up in the mountain in a beautiful area. **Barbara Anderson's** husband **Dick** holds the record grayling. He caught it, weighed it, then turned it loose. I tried to beat his record but always came up about two pounds short.

On the way up we saw a lot of rigs parked in every pull-out and could see people picking berries. It looked like NRCS was holding a reunion in one spot. We pulled over and everyone picked a bunch of berries while I listened to the Billings little league team baseball game in Williamsport Pennsylvania. It's the first time a MT team has ever made the playoffs. I thought I saw two future state conservationists score runs.

NEBRASKA

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The Lincoln SCS Retirees Club met on August 17, 2011. The meeting was opened by President **Paul Smith**. Twenty-four members were present.

Jim Harder reported that he and his wife had gone to TX to take care of their grandchildren while their daughter was having thyroid surgery. **Dave Langemeier** and wife spent a week in Austin, TX, to help celebrate their grandson's birthday. He said the temperature ranged from 104 to 107 degrees and it had been very dry.

Steve Stover and wife went to his wife's family reunion in KS and the temperature was 109 degrees. They went on to MO, OH, and IA to visit family and friends.

Gus Dornbusch reported that he and **Donna** had been in Switzerland for an international Kiwanis convention. They took a six-day trip prior to the convention and traveled around Switzerland. **Donna** reported that **Gus** had attended the national ARCSE meeting in Washington, D.C., in July and that they had taken four of their grandchildren with them.

Joe Kuenning reported that **Dain Root's** granddaughter is now captain of the UNL volleyball team.

Paul Smith complimented **Norm and Sylvia Kempf** for sending in NE articles to the national retirees' newsletter.

The Oct. breakfast will be held on Wednesday, October 19, at Hy-Vee at 84th and Holdrege. It will be a buffet breakfast. No price has been set yet. **Dave Langemeier** stated that the SCS golf tournament will be held Aug. 26, at the Highlands.

JoAnne Thiele reported that **Dorothy Meyer** was here for her annual visit, is now 87, and still living in IN.

Those traveling to KS and TX reported that it was very dry and that the corn fields were completely dried out and there would be no corn crop this year.

Those celebrating August birthdays are **Gus Dornbusch, Jim Culver, and Charlene Woodside**.

Donna Dornbusch commented on the current job of secretary/treasurer, if changes could be made to the duties, i.e., eliminating the minutes of the meeting, or having separate people doing the secretary and treasurer positions, etc. Ideas or suggestions can be given at the Sept. meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Donald Haley, ARCSE Representative

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On July 16 retirees and other former employees gathered at the home of **Woody Argereow** in Rochester, NH. The occasion was a BYO everything picnic organized by Priscilla Johnston. Those attending were: **Brian & Jocelyn St. Onge, Lynn Howell, George Stevens, Dianne & Werner Vogt, Don & Deb Haley, Susan Wood, Woody & Carolyn Argereow, Brad & Betty Batchelder, Nick Luhtala, Priscilla & Al Johnston, Janet Boduch, Ted Kelsey, and Senior Conservationist Charles Dingle** and his wife **Beverly**.

Also attending were: **Pauline Lamontagne** and **Mr. & Mrs. Walt Zwearcan**. In addition NH STC **Rick Ellsmore** and ASTC **Jim Spielman**. **Rick** gave us an update on status of programs and funding outlook.

Everyone enjoyed a great time and plans are being made for a repeat next year.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Madeline Angelo, wife of former State Office Engineering Technician, **David Angelo**, passed away on May 20, 2011.

Burt Laux, Soil Scientist, had open heart triple by-pass surgery this spring. The day after **Burt** came home from the hospital, his wife, **Catherine**, broke her ankle.

The annual retirees' picnic was held July 21st at Dorchester Park in Whitney Park, NY., with **Dick & Elaine Crowe, Greg & Joyce Currier, Paul & Rose Dodd, Julian & Silvia Drelich, Tony & Kathleen Esser, Fred & Mary Gilbert, Gene Hanchett** and friend, **Ethel, Nancy Lee, Lee & Brooke McDowell, Erwin & Gwen Rice, Brian & Sue Timothy, Astor Boozer (STC), and Ivy Allen (PAS)** in attendance.

I attended the retirement party of **Mike Townsend**, State Biologist, and **Paul Ray**, Resource Conservationist, both with 33 ½ years of government service held at the Chittenango State Park in Cazenovia, NY on August 7th. There were many retirees present that I had not seen for many years, including **Fred Gaffney, Carol Kuehnoff, Joe & Debbie DelVecchio, Dave Kitchie, Julian Drelich, Harlen Moonen, Fred & Mary Gilbert, Greg Currier, Jim Calhoun** and many others that I apologize for miss naming.

Dick Winnett, RC&D Coordinator in Bath, NY has also retired with 39 ½ years in government service. His retirement party will be held in September.

OHIO

Larry Tornes, ARCSE Representative

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Twenty-four retirees, spouses, and NRCS employees attended the annual SCS/NRCS Retirees' Social Gathering and Luncheon on Aug. 12 at the MCL Cafeteria, 5240 East Main Street, Columbus, OH. Following the invocation by Pastor **Dave Berna**, the luncheon was enjoyed by **John Armentano, Dave Berna, Joe & Marge Branco, Marvin & Jeannine Bureau, Earl Carlton, Bob Hendershot,,**

Thornton & Joanne Hole, Mike Laughrey, Joe & Bonnie Lee, Lennie Losh, Byron & Ardith Nolte, Jim Piper, Merv & Betty Skiles, Mark Smith, Joe & Carolyn Steiger, and Larry & Anna Tornes.

Larry Tornes received word that **Bob Jones, Don Perfect, Sam Lehman,** and **David Overholt** had passed away since the 2010 luncheon. **Floyd Heft** passed away some time ago and **Paul Hoskins** was killed in an automobile accident by a drunken driver about two years ago. He asked for a moment of silence for them and all retirees that have passed.

Larry stressed the importance of membership in the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE). Fifty-nine retirees that worked in OH are members of the Association.

Larry introduced **Mark Smith**, Assistant State Conservationist for Natural Resources, NRCS, who discussed some of the programs and the challenges. Lake Erie still has excess algae and sediment. A lot more commercial phosphorus is applied on cropland in the fall and winter resulting in dissolved phosphorus in runoff water to lakes. NRCS has 35 million to spend on eleven programs in 2011. OH presently has 232 employees.

Joe Branco, retired State Conservationist, was Master of Ceremonies for introduction of retirees. **Lennie Losh** raised the question of what is considered a conservation plan today? A cost of living adjustment will probably be made for retirees. **Lennie** is still farming. He drives senior citizens to and from church on Sundays. **Lennie** spent time recently with family and friends in FL. He also visited historic sites in that area.

Merv & Betty Skiles have had a good year after handling medical issues. In four weeks they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. **Dave Berna** traveled to Kenya recently and will be going to Austria in the near future. **Joe & Marge Branco** are still enjoying their winters in LA and their summers in OH. **Jim Piper** bought a camping unit and did sight seeing in the northwestern part of the U S last summer and the southwestern part this year.

Earl Carlton always enjoyed working with people. Oil and gas leases are selling for \$3,500.00 per acre per year in his area. The exploration companies plan to drill 60 wells in Carroll County by next year – presently have 4 or 5 wells. **Joe & Carolyn Steiger** have been traveling. **Carolyn** is obtaining help from an arthritis specialist. **Joe** is involved in helping the needy and doing soil consulting.

Thornton & Joanne Hole are here from NJ visiting family in Columbus, Wapakoneta, and Fort Wayne, IN. NJ has the same problems as OH with algae bloom in lakes. **Bonnie Lee** worked for SCS/NRCS in FL before she retired. Following retirement, they moved to Jamestown, OH. **Byron & Ardith Nolte** have been enjoying their stays in Elder Hostels. **Byron** had back surgery in Apr. of 2010; however, he is back to daily cycling. **Marvin & Jeannine Bureau** will soon be married 60 years. He started with SCS in 1955 and is still doing soil consulting, mostly in Wayne County.

Bob Hendershot will be retiring in the near future. He has a daughter living in Columbus and a son that is a helicopter pilot. **Bob** and his wife live on a small farm near Circleville and have 100 to 110 sheep. He is past president of the American Grassland Council. **Larry & Anna Tornes** held their family reunion this summer in a large lodge near Deadwood, SD.

They are involved with the Big Walnut Friends Who Share group that assist the needy with food, clothing, furniture and appliances. **Larry** is still doing soil consulting.

Messages were received from a number of retirees that couldn't make the meeting. **Ralph & Betty Gray** are visiting family in Baltimore, MD. **Ralph** is still volunteering on the Cuyahoga County Scenic Railroad. **Barbara Clayton** had surgery recently so could not make the luncheon. **Henry Fisher** sent a note saying he would be attending a stamp show in Columbus today. **Tim Halt**, a recent retiree, has a daughter who is getting married this evening.

Bob Parkinson retired at the end of July. **Bob** and his wife are attending a family reunion in Philadelphia. **Norb Lerch** says he has been retired longer than he worked. **Norb** and his wife, **Luella**, are enjoying themselves on their land in Butler County. **Dave & Terry Brooks** are visiting family in OR. **Dave** had surgery on his left eye and is doing fine. He is driving again. **Don Urban** is living in a Retirement Community in OR. He says other than sore joints and a lazy heart muscle, everything is well.

Danny Brown planned to be here today; however, his daughter who is moving to CT is visiting him in Ravenna. When he sells his home, he plans to move back to Tiffin to be near his family. **Steve Davis** wrote that **Tom Sommers** has been ill since May. They now think he has Sjogren's Syndrome - an autoimmune disease. Effects are dry mouth, dull persistent joint pain, and fatigue/lack of energy. He is talking about going to the Cleveland Clinic.

OREGON

Donald Stettler, ARCSE Representative
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Here in the Northwest, unlike much of the country, it stayed cool and rainy until well after July 4th, the usual beginning our summer-like weather. The summer quarter retiree lunch was held on July 27th. That day may have been only the second day of our actual summer. Those attending the lunch were **Keith Cromwell, Clifton & Marva Jo Deal, Len & LaVonne Dugan, Gary Fomanek, Roy Fox, Tom Fujii, John Hedlund, Dave Johnson, Jack Kanalz, Lowell & Marian Kenedy, Roy & Linda Mann, Frank & Elisa Reckendorf, Joe Sahlfeld, Dick Sylvester, Eldena VanderZanden, Ralph Wadleigh,** and yours truly.

Dick Sylvester was greeted as Oregon's newest retiree after 45 years of federal service. **Eldena VanderZanden** was congratulated for being the top individual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Forest Grove. Also congratulated was **Len Dugan** who just celebrated his 89th birthday. Best wishes for many more to come **Len!** **Joe Sahlfeld** announced he would be getting married the following weekend. Congratulations, **Joe!**

Bob Graham reported that he and **Iann** were in the midst of moving into a house at the Crooked River Ranch in Central OR. He went on to say there were lots of wildlife there including deer, rabbits, and quail. One thing he didn't mention was the beautiful scenery that is the backdrop in that part of OR.

Jack Inhoff sent his regrets saying he was recovering from heart surgery. **Jack**, a retired career army sergeant, asked that all be given his greetings, especially to 2nd Lt. **Dave Johnson.**

When I showed **Dave Jack's** greeting, **Dave** said he always told **Jack** that he had made 1st Lt. Even so **Jack's** response was always, "Not with me you haven't." Knowing **Jack** he will soon be back on the golf course. **Marsel Tingey** also sent his regrets. He was preparing to go to a family reunion in Salt Lake City. One thing he is noting about retirement is that birthdays seem to roll around quite quickly as well as his reaction time slowing down. I think that is true of all of us retirees.

The next retiree lunch will be on October 26th at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

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Lee & Jean Bentz hosted a young Ukrainian exchange student this past winter. He came to the US in May, 2010, making fudge in Michigan for the summer. In October he came to their church on the recommendation of a friend of his missionary father. He began working at a local orchard and living in a migrant labor camp. **Lee & Jean** were immediately attracted to his warm smile and love of the Lord. In Jan., his lack of privacy and quiet time at camp prompted the **Bentz's** to invite him to live with them and give him more of a sense of family. **Lee & Jean** learned a lot about the Ukraine while teaching him about life in the USA. He was a good worker and loved driving **Lee's** tractors and feeding animals. Both parties had wonderful experiences which ended too soon in April when the young man returned to the state of Washington. They keep in touch weekly and he calls the **Bentz's** his "adopted" parents.

Graham & Mary (Munk & Mo) Munkittrick were in a head on collision around mid day with a drunk driver on – when else – Friday the 13th of May. **Mo** suffered bruises but they are thankful it was not worse.

Hello from **John & Donna Mickley** They were able again this year to spend two months in Sun City, FL where they entertained former SCS friends. **Carole & Bob Heidecker's** house was only two blocks away so they got together most days for their daily trip to the pool or estate sales. **Norm & Rose Wolfrom** and their friends, **Dick & Phyllis Wert**, were camping close. Everyone gathered at their place for dinner and fellowship. **Chuck & Trudy Gentry**, who worked with **John** in Somerset during the 1970's spent five days with them. Lots of cards were played as well as renewing of friendship for those years. The **Mickley's** month of March passed in a flash. April was a quiet month after **Carole & Bob** left to go back to PA. **John** got some action going as he contacted cellulitis in the left leg. A quick response by doctors and 15 days in the Infusion Center prevented any long term problems. They returned to Gettysburg on May 2. They were glad to see the new grandson and his sister and brother were glad to see Grandma & Grandpa. Upcoming are a Fall bus trip to Boston and a trip to visit their son in Texas.

Rose Marie & Dale Updegraff took a ski trip to Sun Valley, ID this past winter. **Rosie** said skiing was great and it's a beautiful area. They enjoyed the nearby town of Ketchum, ID. Ernest Hemingway lived there and is buried in the town cemetery which they visited. In May, **Rosie & Dale** traveled to London and Ireland. They spent a week in London seeing all the sights including a tour of the Houses of Parliament, boat ride on the Thames, and a show at a West End Theater. They also took a

train to the beautiful medieval town of Bath. The next week was spent in Dublin. Touring the city included Dublin Castle and Guinness Brewery. Queen Elizabeth picked the same week to visit so security was tight with 8,000 police on the streets! **Rosie** said she never did find her Irish ancestors.

Bill & Mary Ann Bowers are enjoying the summer. **Bill**, son-in-law **Marc**, and grandson **Ben** attended two days of the US Open golf tournament near Bethesda, MD. **Ben's** comment, "We got to see Rory make two birdies, but then he made a bunch of them." As part of **Bill's** Penn State's Master Gardener program, he was one of the seven stops on the Cumberland County Master Gardener Garden Tour in June. It was a fun afternoon with over 100 visitors but a lot of preparation. **Mary Ann's** comment was that **Bill** was the "mad gardener" for several weeks before the tour. Brother **Don** and family came to help with the tour.

Tim & Gina Murphy spent about 3 weeks in Italy back in March, touring Tuscany, Pompei, Sorrento, the Amalfi coast, & Capri. They capped it off with 5 days in Rome where they met son **Evan** who was studying Architecture at the Pantheon Institute for his spring semester. Lots of history, art, & architecture; great food & wine. They were there while the Italians were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the unification of their country. Yes, the USA is older as a nation than Italy! **Tim** says there were an awful lot of grape vines planted up & down the slope, & he did not see any no-till farming. They visited a farm outside of Sorrento on 4 acres that had 40 cows, plus a few hogs and chickens. Don't even think about the nutrient loading on that farm! More recently, **Tim** spent a day fishing on the Susquehanna with recent retiree **Jeff Mahood**. "We didn't catch as many as we expected, but had a great day anyhow," says **Tim**. They plan to repeat the trip in the fall.

During the last year **Kathy & Wes Gordon** were the host family for a 16 year old girl from Bangkok, Thailand who was in the U.S. with the AFS program. It is about the last thing they envisioned doing in retirement at the farm but it was a wonderful experience. She attended the local high school and was active in everything, band, chorus, class play, tennis team, dances, parties, etc. It was really fun having a teenage girl in the house again. Being a big city girl she had a lot to learn about life on the farm. She was an energetic, fun loving, talented, intelligent girl and they loved having her live with them.

Wes was appointed a District Supervisor with the Allegany County (MD) Soil Conservation District, marking the third generation of service with the District. His grandfather was a founding board member and his father was a supervisor for many years. Life on the farm is wonderful. **Wes** keeps busy rotational grazing the beef cattle, making hay, gardening, and fixing fence. The farmhouse restoration is completed sufficiently although more is yet to be done. **Kathy & Wes** feel extremely fortunate to live on the farm and would welcome visitors. Just check with them first to make sure they are not in Pittsburgh visiting their grandson.

John Akers reports that his wife, **Ann**, has had problems with her right foot and if she is on it too much it swells up and causes pain. She has been to a couple of doctors, but not a lot of relief. They finally got the roof re-built on their small barn, that had been damaged last Nov. In the process they found a mother cat and four kittens living upstairs. Any one like to have a kitten?

John is the Bedford Conservation District representative on the Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council and also the Conservancy. They have been working through not having any NRCS staff since they re-assigned the Coordinator to other duties. The Conservancy is the owner of the portion of the old turnpike that included the old Sidling Hill tunnel and the Rays Hill tunnel close to Breezewood. There are safety issues with the tunnels and **John** has been working on getting estimates to close some safety hazards. The Crystal Spring Camp Meeting Association is celebrating its 125th anniversary. **John** is putting together an anniversary book and some other things. So spring and early summer have been busy.

Dave & Paula Lorenz moved to Abilene, TX the first week in July. The transition to TX comes with mixed emotions. They said, "We will miss our dear friends here in PA but also look forward to meeting new friends and having new experiences in Texas. We lived in TX for almost 10 years before coming to PA and are acquainted with the area and looking forward to meeting up with old friends. **Dave's** cell phone number is 484 459-9172. We do not have a land line number but plan to get one after we get settled in. Our e-mail address is dglorenz@verizon.net. Come see us." The possibility of the white stuff falling to any degree during the winter is almost nil. **Dave** will definitely love that part of the move.

Although **Larry Staley** has not taken up RVing again, he has returned to a nomadic life style. He spent last winter back in FL in a very nice smalltown (Stuart) on the intercostal water way, (away from the usual hustle and bustle of the metro east coast). He enjoyed the moderate climate and got a chance to return to one of his favorite pastimes: playing bridge. He was quite rusty after a 10 year layoff, but soon regained enough confidence to return to duplicate.

Larry returned to OH in April in time for tree planting season, and planted a number of trees including a new variety to him -.Shumard Oak. The seedlings were supplied by the local SWCD. Also planted Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, and Pin Oak. The common thread is obvious... All the soils were wet and clayey. (Once a soil scientist, always a soil scientist.) In May, he left for Portland, OR and is spending the summer there. He is staying in a condo which is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1890 and was one of the first apartment buildings in a burgeoning Jewish community (across the street from the Synagogue). His sojourn is a work project; helping to restore the building to its original state, following a serious fire last Oct. He hopes to return to the frost free area of the country late next fall. No decision has been made yet as to where that will be.

Good news from **Don & Shirley Lindsey**. **Don** had his CT scans and labs in June. The doctor said he could go a year between checkups, a first, and the results were good. They thank all for prayers and good thoughts. **Shirley** adds that the garden is growing good, too.

So many people, says **Trish Peck**. Ocean City is so busy this time of year. Already she longs for the quieter days of Fall and Winter. Anyone who wants to reach **Trish** can do so by e-mail at octrish@yahoo.com.

Fred Bubb returned from Bosnia in May. He began his trips in 1996 right after the war ended. Young people that were bitter and scarred teenagers now call **Fred** 'Grandfather' as most had lost male members of their families. He said it has been a blessing to see these young people turn their lives around and

now be married, some with children, some expecting. Two additional highlights this year were bringing together the men of the church in a Muslim city and in a Serb city for fellowship and Bible study. Fifteen years ago these men were shooting at and killing each other. The Serb city was in the area of several concentration camps, one where 8,000 men and boys were killed. Another highlight was that he was joined by two young men who after their visit plan to return to Zenica to work with college students and to join a Bosnian couple in beginning a ministry in the very poor Muslim city of Vares.

In March, in a weak moment and much to his wife's dismay, **Fred Schuetz** agreed to be a candidate for another four year term on Trappe Borough Council. These past four years he has served as President of Council. Four years ago **Fred**, and three like - minded associates, challenged the local Republican Party leadership and unseated by an overwhelming margin four endorsed incumbents in the Spring Primary. At the same time they received the necessary write-in votes to be placed on the Nov. ballot on the Democratic slate. Two years ago there was a change in local Party leadership, but not for the better. He chose to not walk away from the challenge. This spring three of them, whose terms will expire this year, ran unendorsed in the Primary election and again by a wide margin defeated three endorsed candidates. In the Nov. general election they will be unopposed on both Republican and Democratic slates. They think they will win. **Fred** is not making any promises that he will last another four years. There are times when the novelty shows signs of wearing off.

Frank Resides made the following report on their trip to the SWCS International Symposium and ARCSE Annual Meeting: **Jane** and I attended this year's International Symposium, held in the Shoreham Hotel.

First, I was somewhat surprised and dismayed at the lack of attendance in our nation's capital. I thought that a lot of families would attend, and then spend the remainder of the week in the city with no end of things to see and do. Apparently that didn't happen.

I talked to a man from OR at the Sunday evening reception, while drinking my \$10 bottle of beer, who grows Hazel Nuts on filbert bushes. He said OR produces about 3 percent of the world's supply of these and they are pollinated primarily by the wind. No need for honeybee services. A topic of interest to beekeepers.

Many discussions and presentations focused on global concerns for future food security and the challenges posed by climate change and the increasing world population. A current USDA official cited a projection that the world population will reach 9 billion by 2050. This seems possible, since my sources indicate that the present population is approximately 7 billion. Future food security is certainly an important concern, since food shortages are already occurring in many countries, some of which are weather-related. Future generations may see the time when we will have to drain some of the "precious" wetlands that we have been protecting to raise food grains. It could be: Farmland or Wetland? -A Time to Choose.

Since I had not attended one of these conventions for 14 years, some things definitely looked different. As a former presenter of Poster Papers, I noticed that many of these have a new look. They were more technical, more academic, with

more "fine print" as authors try to depict research results and highly technical subjects. This is not meant as criticism, just an observation.

The Monday evening tour *Washington Favorites at Night* was interesting and informative, although a bit tiring, especially for us senior citizens. In addition to seeing many of the government buildings and memorials in D C, we visited the two Jimma Memorial in VA. A revisit for me, and still my favorite, an opinion which may have formed in the 1950s during my three years with the Globe & Anchor men. We got off the bus some place not close to the Lincoln Memorial, to which, we walked and stood on the steps, very impressive at night. We then continued on foot to the Vietnam and Korean War memorials before getting back on the bus, a trek of at least a half-mile or more with the temperature at 90+. It was a pleasant evening and we were back to the hotel by 11 PM.

On Tuesday over 40 retirees and guests attended the ARCSE lunch. It was a good meal and several well-deserved awards were presented. Unfortunately, our Pennsylvania recipient, **Nevin Ulery**, could not be present to receive his Community Service award.

On Wednesday, twenty attendees took the bus tour to **Mount Vernon**. It was my first time there, a very special place. We began with a walk to the agricultural area adjacent to the Potomac River. There we were told about our first president's agrarian activities and accomplishments. One of the first to abandon the monoculture of tobacco, Washington used a 7-year crop rotation on each of his 4 farms. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, rye, sorghum, grasses and buckwheat, as a green manure crop. Washington designed and built a threshing barn to process his small grains. Horses were used to trample the grain heads through a slatted floor, after which the grain was sifted into baskets. This was the first technical advancement over the flail, which had been used since biblical times. The threshing barn method raised the grain recovery to about 75 percent vs. 35 percent with the flail.

Mount Vernon had its own gristmill; built because other millers took a high percentage of the flour they ground for customers. Washington added some extra millstones to make very fine flour (what we know as cake flour) for which there was a good market in both England and the Colonies. Washington initiated a mule-breeding program. He believed that these animals were intelligent and could work longer and harder than horses, were steadier and took less feed. He was influential in mules being used extensively as draft animals throughout the Colonies. If you don't happen to know how mules are bred, ask me sometime.

There was also a distillery at Mount Vernon that produced up to 11,000 gallons of whisky a year. This was a most profitable venture, and paid the expenses of some less lucrative activities.

The Incentive Experiment: Do incentives work? Washington's coopers, who were slaves, had a production quota of two barrels a day. Many of them barely met this number, which was necessary to meet the plantation's needs. They were offered the opportunity to work on Sundays (which was not required) and get paid a nominal wage for each barrel they could make. Many who could barely make two barrels a day during the week, usually made about four on Sundays. Apparently incentives do work.

Legend has it that Mr. Washington was very demanding of his farm managers and others that worked at Mount Vernon.

The Education Center and Museum are extensive. There were several short movies depicting Washington's views on religion, morality, politics, and other issues. There were numerous displays with period artifacts and of course restaurants and gift shops. This tour, and the conference concluded for us with an uneventful ride back to the hotel.

The meeting was generally well organized. I especially appreciated the "spread sheet" that was available for each day with all presentations listed, with the room location and times all on one page. This was a big improvement over leafing back and forth through a program booklet to know where to go next. The local chapters, primarily the National Capital, with assistance from the Old Line, MD, the Virginia, and the Keystone, PA did a fine job of hosting the conference. I know from experience that it is a lot of work and their efforts are appreciated. And of course, we enjoyed visiting with many friends and my former colleagues from days gone by.

I mentioned earlier that some things looked different than they did 14 years ago, these included the prices i.e. \$180 for a room, \$39 a day to park a car, with tax. Could this be one reason for lower attendance this year?

Jane and I stopped on our way home at the Lafayette Inn on US Rt. 1, just above Conowingo Dam, where we each had some Yuengling, and I had a couple of soft shelled crabs. These are two of PA's and MD's finest.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark Berkland, ARCSE Representative
Email: mberkland@homesc.com

Henry Nicholson, retired SCT, is chairman of the Bamberg County Soil & Water District which hosted the Spring Area Regional Meeting in April. **Henry** reported that those attending toured the Sandifer and Sons' Packing Shed & Jack Sandifer's Wildlife Restoration Project. The group returned to the J Carl Kearse Building for a meeting and fish-fry.

Gerry Welsh and wife **Alice** made a very interesting road trip in May. Their ultimate destination was Cooperstown, NY where **Gerry** attended a three day baseball symposium at the National Baseball Hall of Fame (while **Alice** shopped and visited museums) and even got to play in a game of 1840s rules Town Ball. **Gerry** said he was extremely fortunate, hitting a line drive with his only at bat. And, even more blessed in that it was immediately caught by an infielder so he didn't have to try to run (which he said he couldn't have anyway). **Gerry & Alice** visited lots of friends and family on our way. More recently, they escaped the July heat for a few days by heading up to West Jefferson, NC, to enjoy the cool mountain air.

Jeanette & Art Holland spent the month of July at Miami Beach, no not FL, but Old Lyme, CT where they rented a cottage. Spent some time on the beach of Long Island Sound and visited many sites in the area. Helped the casinos pay their annual \$50 million to the state of CT where the Governor had sent pink slips to over 6000 government employees since the union wouldn't approve the Governor's proposal to cut back on spending. The Union's bylaws required 80 % of the membership to approve and they only had 54 % approval, however the Unions changed their

bylaws and were to revote after they left, so assume that they will not be laid off now, but will agree to the cuts. While they were there, there was an "Open Farm Day" in East Lyme. They had 4 farms that invited the public to visit and see how Agriculture worked. It was very educational for urban families to see life on the farm. At the old Stonington Fair, they watched a competition of oxen teams working which was most interesting. There were teams from FL and ME as well as locals, with very young children, teenage and older adults working them. One of the farms on the Open Farm Day tour had a beautiful oxen team that the owner takes to schools for the students to see first hand. They are very domesticated and docile animals. The outdoor evening concerts, in the local communities and towns, were very relaxing and enjoyable. **Art** recalled an incident during his days with the SCS regarding Long Island Sound. One afternoon, on Sept 15, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland at a Historic Inn near Easton, they were dining in this upscale Inn and he ordered oysters on the half shell. They were the largest oysters that he had ever seen, bigger than a double yoke egg; they were very big. Anyway, trying to be nice, **Art** asked the waiter if they were from the Chesapeake Bay, knowing the oyster harvesting season opened on Sept 15. He said no, they had come from Long Island Sound.

Then it dawned on **Art**, he thought it was "Mook" Allen, from the NENTC, that had been providing technical assistance to New York and the "Land Island Duck" farmers to help them with their waste disposal problem. Their drainage was going into Long Island Sound. Those were excellent oysters!

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

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

Eleven members were present for the June 17, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakely, Elaine Davis, Dorthy Green, Dave Drennan, Bonnie McKee, Anita Plummer, Richard Heizer, Don Newman, Dennis Erinakes, and Thomas & Del Rockenbaugh.**

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. There was no scheduled program but **Dennis Erinakes** provided an update to the club on the Prairie Lands Groundwater District and his activities as a Board Member. One sub-committee on which **Dennis** participates has been charged with developing materials and providing water conservation education to person's and schools within the District's four county area. He asked the club if anyone might be interested in volunteering to help with this task; if so, please contact **Dennis**.

Dennis Erinakes: reported on showing the "best" that FTW has to offer to a cousin who he had not seen since the mid-80's. Took in the Kimball Art and Amon Carter Museums as well as the train in Forest Park. He also wrote: "Grandson **Ethan** (a visitor to our group in the past) graduated from Bishop Lynch HS in Dallas and will enter OU (Norman) on an Army scholarship. My property in Joshua is finally hail proof; just finished a large metal roofed carport along with steel roofs on the house and barns last year. I'm ok; Shobie and Ranger are still into their early AM run and doing fine."

Don Newman: He and **Bernice** visited son and daughter-in-law in Amarillo during Labor Day weekend. Large rangeland fire next to house and subdivision caused them to evacuate and was not able to return until next day. Luckily house and subdivision were unharmed.

Thomas 'Rocky' Rockenbaugh: Been on the road attending marriages and family reunions for much of last month. Their youngest granddaughter graduated from TX A&M one week and was married the following week. **Del & Rocky Rockenbaugh** attended her wedding at Texas A&M May 21st, 2011. **Rocky** had the honor of walking **Michele Neffendorf** down the aisle to be married to **Josh Bane**. **Michele & Josh** will be moving to China in August where he is the head of a Mission School and she will be teaching English through the Baptist Mission Foreign Board. An interesting fact is **Rocky's** mother's great-great-great-great aunt worked with **Lottie Moon** in China as a missionary. **Del Rockenbaugh:** Just got back from her family reunion in Branson, MO; one where she gets to see her brothers and sisters once each year. On the way they drove by Joplin and were shocked at the devastation they saw there as a result of the tornado. **Del & Rocky** are expecting their 15th great grandchild.

Richard Heizer: Reported that he was on a 12 Day Fishing trip in Ontario, Canada during last meeting. Also, military son and daughter-in-law, both stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were expecting their first child (and **Richard & Sara's** seventh grandchild) early next year and the child will likely be born at the U.S. base in Guantanamo. **Earl Blakely:** Staying out of the heat during summer; will be visiting Lubbock, TX and taking a trip into OK once it cools off.

Dorthy Green: Reported that Tuesday evening she met the troops at DFW; the father of one special military family to whom she has become acquainted was coming home and seeing/meeting his baby for the first time. She continues to package and send special gifts and other needs to deployed soldiers and will continue to do so as long as she is able and they are still in foreign lands. **Bonnie McKee:** Just resting up!! **Elaine Davis:** Granddaughter, who lives with them, was away at church camp and will be the Mascot for her school next year "Spike the Bulldog". She lettered this year in power-lifting.

Anita Plummer: Taking care of a number of things since her husband's death; the burial was in Springfield, MO and it was a nice service. She does appreciate all the support and care from club members as well as from many others. **Dave Drennan:** Reported that he has enjoyed having his oldest grandson these past two weeks, taking him to basketball camp one week and soccer camp this week. They hope to visit Fredericksburg and the Nimitz Museum in early July.

Twenty-two members were present for the July 21, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakely, Elaine Davis, Dorthy Green, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Phil Delucchi, Dave Drennan, Bonnie McKee, Anita Plummer, Mark Boysen, Don Shanklin, Dennis Erinakes, Mary Mattinson, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Bernelle Baxley, Don Kapalka, Dennis & Kathy Gaster, Joyce Petty, and Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh.**

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. The October Meeting and Picnic date had a conflict this year. Several alternatives were discussed and it was decided to move the regular meeting date to the second Friday in October. **Please mark October 14 as our Annual Picnic.**

Rachel McGill who lives in Weatherford told us she would like to get involved in our Alumni Club. **Rachel** just had her 90th birthday. **Don & Mary Stelling** wrote that he had abdominal aneurysm stent treatment and is doing fine again. "I'm happy to report the stent procedure went well and I returned home to recuperate.

Lu Logan is working at the Benbrook Senior Center part time and is also volunteering at the Trinity Mission Care

Center in Granbury, where her husband **Buck McCullough** is a patient. **Mary Mattinson** wrote she cancelled her home phone and will have only the cell phone.

Mark Boysen – The family trip to Oahu, Hawaii was fabulous! Very impressed with the Pearl Harbor Arizona Memorial. Solemn and memorable experience. **Phil Delucchi** – Reported on their two month West Coast trip that included both he and **Marcia's** 50th college reunion and a family gathering in Monterey area. **Don Shanklin** – reported that 17 family members gathered at a new home in Katy, TX. Also took a trip to Costa Rica.

Dennis Erinakes – Family had a good time at the Fort Worth Cats baseball game with fireworks on the 4th of July. Son **Michael** has purchased a home for disadvantaged people in Burleson. It will be managed by a professional group to provide homes for those in need which will include spiritual guidance. **Michael's** very ambitious goal is to acquire up to ten homes. One other interesting note was that he successfully acquired the ashes of his brother to be buried with his mother. Problems arose when they discovered that they could not locate their mother's grave.

Maxine Owen – Had a great time recently when their son, **Mitch, Kym**, and the 5 & 7 year old granddaughters came for a visit.. They also attended a Kansas SCS-NRCS Annual Alumni meeting in Salina and visited other relatives in the area. **Bernie Owen** attended the National NARFE Meeting last Sept. and **Bernie Owen** and **Dennis Gaster** attended the Texas Federation NARFE meeting in May. **Bernie** has been appointed to be the Texas District #3 Representative for NARFE. **Arnold Norman** gave a program to their chapter on his Afghanistan experience. **Arnold** has been helping Dept. of Defense on advising soldier groups going to Afghanistan. **Dennis Gaster** – had a hospital stay to address kidney stones for a few days. He is looking forward to his 22nd year of assisting at summer camp with the Boy Scouts of America.

Dave Stockbridge – **Dave** returned to the Canadian fish camp for the second year. He and his boat partner caught 372 Walleye and Northern Pike fish that average over 2 pounds. Bad news was they could only bring home two fish each. **Dave** has started a Mobile Food Pantry in addition to the weekly church distribution via his church. Most of the Granbury SCS retirees and wives are involved in that program. (**Dave** is a very good recruiter) **Barbara Stockbridge** – Returned from NY state visiting with family and son **Gregg** in NYC. They visited Ellis Island and Gettysburg. **Barbara** mentioned that she had a nice quiet vacation at home while **Dave** was gone for two fishing trips.

Don Kapalka – Did a lot of brush work in May. (Did not know he was into art.) **Del & Rocky** – One of their great grandsons is heading to Afghanistan. They are expecting their 15th great grandchild soon.

Dorothy Green – continues to help with the Vet care packages in her area. Her son is a rodeo clown at Billy Bob's. Her four sets of twin grandchildren keep her entertained and believe she has another set of twins on the way. **Elaine Davis** had a family reunion at their lake house. Her daughter passed away on June 8 from fast acting cancer, and expressed thankfulness for all the condolences from the alumni members.

Mary Mattinson is having some home renovations. Friends are caring for her dog while work is ongoing. **Anita Plumber** - Daughter **Penny** and family visited her from NC. All is well. **Bernelle Bagley** – with the drought local wildlife have been

coming nearer her home. She is enjoying the turkey, deer, and birds at St Francis Village.

And the round table fish hook, **Dave Drennan** – got to see the grandkids for two weeks. Watch the sport camps and other activities such as swim lessons. They travelled to Fredericksburg to see the Admiral Nimitz Museum and the new George H.W. Bush addition which was great! Also they attended the Rockbox Theater Music and heard some great music from the past. (That group moved down from Granbury several years ago. Very talented group)

Freddie Williams wrote July 26th, **Jeff's** lab work was not good today. His white counts are very low and he is on shots to try and bring it up. They will do labs again on Thursday to see if it has gotten any better. If it is too low the will have to stop the chemo till it is at a safe level. Please pray that his counts will improve so that he can continue with the treatments. Thanks for all your prayers.

There was no scheduled program but **Dennis Erinakes** provided an update to the club on the Prairie Lands Groundwater District and his activities as a Board Member. One sub-committee on which **Dennis** participates has been charged with developing materials and providing water conservation education to person's and schools within the District's four county area. He asked the club if anyone might be interested in volunteering to help with this task; if so, please contact **Dennis**. Information on the groundwater conservation districts will be included in the next newsletter, space permitting. **Dennis's computer related recommendations:** 1 -don't leave your computer running; you are asking for trouble. 2- Do not reply to an email saying "Thank you for your donation" and 3- do not click on an email message that says "You have a Virus – Click here".

Billie Lee, mother of NRCS retiree, **Barney Lee**, passed away June 27th 2011 following a lengthy illness in Breckenridge, TX. **Barney's** last position with NRCS was as district conservationist, Pecos, TX. Currently, he is in the agricultural chemical application business, North Star Helicopters.

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

John Stierna sends "I received the Norman A Berg Conservation Legacy Award from the National Capital Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The presentation was made at the Fellows Forum at the SWCS annual meeting here in Washington in July. I feel very honored and humbled to receive this award. On a different note **John**, I was so pleased to read your account of travels in New Zealand and Australia. I have been fortunate to have visited to both and have enjoyed it tremendously. My son moved to Auckland, New Zealand a year ago, so **Ruth** and I went last Feb. We plan to go again in Feb/Mar of 2012 when it is summer there. This time we hope to travel around the North Island, but not sure if we will have time to get to the South Island. The outlook for conservation programs is not very encouraging right now. Currently working to protect as much as possible, but that has challenges as there is no baseline for several of the programs--WRP, HFRP, and GRP specifically. Not sure if the "super committee" will be able to do much given the statements of the leaders in the House and Senate regarding the kinds of people they will appoint to it. It is not unreasonable to expect an across the board sequestration for all conservation programs. As

of now, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [the old food stamp program] is the only program in the Ag budget that is exempt from sequestration. Maybe others will be, but I have not heard of any others. Lot of pressure for consolidation, and of course there are both pros and cons for any of the options out there. It is going to be a very interesting and challenging fall." That it will be **John**.

Neil & Eleanor Bogner reported on the ARCSE luncheon during the SWCS meeting this July in DC. "I'll miss some of those from the DC area that attended but you can check with others to get the full list - **Bob Kohnke, Wally Ochs, Neil Sampson, Neil & Eleanor Bogner, Dave & Marge Ralston, and Ron & Ann Marlowe**. Seems like there were others but then I may have seen them around the SWCS meeting. Check with **Ron** or **Bob K.** to get the full list. **Eleanor** & I spent 10 days in IA and Illinois visiting family and friends and attending **Eleanor's** family reunion. We just got home yesterday. It was hot out there also."

Warren & Barb Lee spent a great week exploring Glacier National Park, including a fun white water rafting trip down the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. A trip to Minneapolis area in mid August is in the works to visit **Barb's** family.

Helen Flach sends this note. "Hi **John!** **Hank Wyman** gave me your email address. Will you add me to your newsletter email list? I hope all is well with you and your family. I'm still in California. I retired in Jan. 2006 but stayed in Davis. My three daughters (and 2 grandsons) are still in Virginia, so I get back there often. You probably know that **Klaus** died in 2004. Since then, he's also become a grandfather -- Martha has a 1-year-old boy and Andy has a girl who's 7 and a newborn baby boy." I'll be happy to add you to my list, **Helen**. It's really good hearing from you again. If you get back to VA when our spring or fall ARCSE luncheon is

held (first Thursday in May and October, at noon, usually at Phillips Flagship Restaurant on Maine Avenue), stop in and visit many of your old friends.

Art & Jeanette Holland and **Gene & Mary Andreuccetti** also checked in this month. It always good hearing from colleagues and friends.

Larry Caldwell (OK) & John Peterson (VA) teamed up again to speak about USDA's Watershed program at the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) International Meeting in Louisville, KY on August 4th. ASABE recognized USDA's Small Watershed Program as a National Historic Engineering Landmark. **Larry & John** also spoke at the ASABE recognition ceremony in Oklahoma City on May 17th at part of the National Watershed Coalition's conference. It would be nice if this recognition and the serious flooding our nation has experienced once again on the Mississippi, Missouri, and Souris, Red, Rainey Rivers this year would wake our politicians and administration officials up as to the value of this most beneficial program,. Your reporter isn't holding his breath that it will happen.

After attending her final ARCSE Board meeting as VP for the South, **Ida Cuthbertson** drove west to OH to see family there. On the way she stopped at Shanksville, PA to visit the Flight 93 memorial. Still under construction and being prepared for dedication in Sept. 2011, the memorial visit is a most sobering occasion. In the temporary exhibition building is documentation on the final minutes for the real heroes of that day. When any of you have the opportunity, go to that place. Thanks, **Ida**.

About 2:00 PM EDT on August 23rd, the eastern US was hit with a 5.8 magnitude earthquake. The epicenter was near Mineral, VA, about halfway between Richmond and

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler

Senior Conservationist Paul M. Howard was born August 20, 1925, in Hamilton County, Tennessee, just outside Chattanooga. He graduated from Sale Creek High School in 1943 and was drafted into the US Army in 1944. He went through basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and from there was selected to be in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. He spent one year training at Baltimore, Maryland, where he learned Japanese and subsequently was stationed in Tokyo in October 1945. Upon his discharge from the Army in 1947 he enrolled at the University of Tennessee. Because of the G.I. Bill **Paul** says he was able to go full-time and thereby was able to graduate in December 1950. His goal upon graduation (with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Education) was to teach Vocational Agriculture. He and four friends decided to go to Indiana to seek teaching positions. **Paul** said that it was simply because Indiana paid its VoAg teachers better than Tennessee did. **Paul** and friends drove to Purdue University, looked at the vacancies across the state, and then drew city names "out of a hat". **Paul** drew French Lick, Indiana. He went there, was interviewed, and was hired on the spot. He taught there from 1951 to 1955. During that time he met and married Betty Clark in 1952; they will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary this coming December.

Paul's SCS career began in 1955 at Paoli, IN, which is just 10 miles from French Lick. He was a trainee for one year, but by the time he left Paoli in 1960, he was District Conservationist. From Paoli he was promoted to AC at Muncie, Indiana, where he worked until 1963. He then took the AC position at Vincennes, Indiana, where there was much more in the way of watershed activity. In 1966 **Paul** was promoted to Assistant STC at Orono, Maine, where he worked until 1968. In that year his career took him to Des Moines, Iowa, where he worked as Deputy STC. In 1970 he accepted a promotion to State Conservationist for Tennessee where he led state activities until 1975. In that year he was promoted to Director of what was the Resource Conservation Division; he led that Division until 1977 when he became an Assistant Administrator. Another reorganization in the very early 1980s led to **Paul** being named Deputy Chief for Technology. He held that position until he retired March 1, 1986. **Paul's** breadth of leadership included the international scope of soil and water conservation. He championed international exchange of technology as a way to strengthen SCS's domestic conservation "tool kit". Among his personal achievements in this area was his leadership in 1980 of the first USDA delegation to the Peoples Republic of China.

Paul & Betty moved to Sarasota, Florida, three years after his retirement and have enjoyed living there. They have two married sons, **Jeffrey** and **Don**, and four grandsons. They enjoy gardening and travel (international and domestic).

Washington, DC. There were reports the earthquake was felt from SC to Canada. This is the largest earthquake to hit this part of the US since 1897. **John & Blanche Peterson**, who have Washington Nationals tickets, waited outside the baseball stadium that evening, along with thousands of other fans, while structural engineers examined the stadium to ensure its safety. The stadium was declared to be safe and the game played starting late. The National Cathedral in DC was damaged and is closed to the public. **Peterson's** home really shook, things came off the walls, but no structural damage has been found. All living here will certainly have stories to tell about their experience.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

New email addresses:

Dick Gilbert - dick.gilbert51@gmail.com

Address changes:

Ottie G. Johnson

2125 South 22nd Court
Stillwater, OK 74074

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

We welcome four 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:

Gene E. Baltes, Ohio
Robert V. Bollman, IN
Richard W. Hardy, MD
Richard E. Highfill, FL
John M. Kempton, IN

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

Davis P. Overholt, OH
Rudy J. Pederson, TX
John R. Worster, AR
Ernest W. Decker, KS

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

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvester "Ves" Larrabee (92) of St. George, UT passed away on June 29, 2011. He retired as a soil conservation technician for the SCS, working in Montgomery and Fountain counties in IN. He is survived by his wife, **Helen Johnson Larrabee**; children, **Connie (Karl) Richter** of St. George, UT, and **Pamela (Vern) Nelson** of Silverthorne, CO.; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Rosann Boyd (86) of Camp Hill, PA passed away on July 10, 2011. She was the wife of **Hurshal Boyd**, former Assistant State Conservationist for the SCS in PA. **Rosann** had a long career in nursing. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and two daughters. Cards may be sent to **Hurshal** and the family at 899 Oak Oval, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-8409.

Karen Bridge (64) of Tucson, AZ passed away from kidney cancer on July 6, 2011. She started her career with the SCS with the snow survey in Salt Lake City, UT. She entered the Administrative Training Program in Phoenix, AZ, and moved up in the agency- requiring her to move to IA, WY, and, finally, to the Washington office in 1980, as a Personnel Specialist. It was there that she met and married **Galen Bridge**, who retired in 1994 as acting Chief of SCS. She later moved over to FSIS and retired as the Deputy Director of Human Resources. **Karen** is survived by her daughter, **Tracie** and husband, **Galen**. Contributions in her memory would be appreciated at the Friends of Acadia, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME, 04609. The Bridge family will hold a "Celebration of Karen's Life" on Friday, September 9, 2011, at 11:00 am, at the Vistoso Funeral Home, 2285 East Rancho Vistoso Boulevard, Oro Valley, AZ, 85755.

Rebecca "Becky" T. Waller (78) of Cary, NC passed away on July 19, 2011. **Becky** met her husband of 57 years, **Emmett R Waller, Jr.**, in first grade and the two became sweethearts for life. **Emmett** retired in 1997 as the SCS Resource Conservationist in NC. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, and one son, all of Cary and five grandchildren. Memorials in her honor may be directed to Westwood Baptist Church Bus Fund or to Hospice of Wake County, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC in lieu of flowers.

Charles Richard Kirk (90) of Hustontown, PA passed away at home on June 8, 2011. He served in the US Army on active duty from 1941 to 1945 in the European Theater of Operations and also in the China-Burma-India campaign with the 329th Air Service Corps. He retired from the 2375th Army Reserve Engineer Group in 1965. **Dick** was a graduate of Penn State University with a Master's degree in Forestry. He was employed by USDA SCS from 1951 to 1987, retiring as an area conservationist in Lebanon, PA. He was married to **Elinor Clement Kirk** who passed away in 2009. He is survived by son, **Malcolm W. Kirk** of Niwot, CO and Hustontown PA; daughter, **Nancy L. Kirk**, wife of **Anthony Pugliese**; and four grandchildren.

Tracy Leigh Glasgow (39), of Columbia, SC passed away on July 27, 2011. **Tracy** fought a losing battle with cancer. She was the daughter of **Niles** (retired State Conservationist in FL and SC) and **Carolyn Glasgow**. The family has suggested those wishing to honor **Tracy's** life with a memorial, consider the American Cancer Society or any other charity of your choosing.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist David Philip Overholt (90) of Dublin, OH passed away on July 27, 2011. His early life was centered around The Ohio State University where his father was a Professor of Agricultural Engineering. He played baritone in the Ohio state Marching Band then transferred to Michigan State University where he was graduated in 1942 with a degree in forestry. Following graduation from MSU he entered Officers' training with the U S Navy. After post-graduate school at the US Naval Academy and Anti-submarine Warfare School in Miami, he was assigned to the destroyer USS CASSIN YOUNG and helped put her into commission at San Pedro, CA. Thereafter he served as Communications Officer and Navigator throughout her participation in seven major naval battles in the Pacific. Their ship was the last destroyer to be hit by Kamakazi planes before VJ Day. **Dave** was always especially proud of the two Purple Hearts and Bronze star awarded him for service in those campaigns. The USS CASSIN YOUNG is now a National Historic Ship in the Old Charlestown Navy Yard at Boston along with the USS CONSTITUTION. Following the war, **Dave** began what would be his life-long career with the SCS, USDA. After working in MI, OH, and IL, he was transferred to Washington DC. He was one of the developers of the first SCS Farm and Ranch Planning Handbook. In 1982 the **Overholts** retired to Santa Fe, NM. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Betty Jane**, and their three children: **Dr. Jon David Overholt (Brigitte)** of Fair Oaks CA, **Kristine Bellona (Steven)** of Clinton NY, and **Melissa (Patrick) Bowman** of Columbus; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Joyce Bradley (79) of Corsicana, TX passed away July 19, 2011. She had been struggling with bladder cancer for some years. She is survived by her husband, **Jack** (who was the District Conservationist at Ennis, TX and AC of Gainesville Area when he retired), two daughters, a son, and seven grandchildren.

Jim Childers passed away July 14, 2011 after a very long struggle with his health. **Jimmy** retired in October 2005. He was the Agronomist for the Alice Area, and then the Corpus Christi Zone. **Arnold King** shared **Jimmy Childers** was a highly respected agronomist who did a lot to promote conservation tillage in South TX. He lived in Corpus Christi while he worked in Alice and Calallen, and is survived by his wife **Billie**. **Jim** will be cremated and **Billie** will take him back to KY to be buried with his mom and brother. **Billie's** mailing address is 4209 Congressional Dr.; Corpus Christi, TX 78413.

John E. Quinn Jr. (60) passed away on July 30, 2011. This gentle giant struggled with health problems on and off his whole life, but never let it stop him from doing what he loved most, working with the Boy Scouts of America. Because of his work at Scout camps all over the country, a ridge at Sid Richardson Scout Camp, "**Big John's Ridge**," was named after him. **John** would later work for the U.S. government as a cartographer in the SCS, hand-drawing maps, but he never stopped Scouting. On April 13, 2009, **John** was awarded the Silver Beaver Medal in Scouting, an award given to an adult who dedicates his life to making a difference in Scouting. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the Boy Scouts of America in his honor, which can be done online at www.scouting.org.

Senior Conservationist Rudy James "Pete" Pederson (93) a longtime range conservationist in San Angelo who devoted his life to preserving grasslands and water resources, passed away on August 3, 2011. **Rudolph Pederson** was born in a sod house on a wheat farm on the plains near Dutton, MT. Following his father's death, **Rudy** lived at the Montana State Home and graduated as valedictorian of his class at Virginia City High School. **Rudy** graduated from the University of Montana at Missoula with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry and range management in 1939, working summers as a forest ranger and fire fighter. **Rudy** joined the SCS as a field specialist on June 26, 1939, in Billings, MT. **Rudy** received a furlough from the SCS in 1943 to join the US Navy during World War II. He served as chief gunnery officer on the USS Salomonie, a fleet oiler and participated in the American Theater, European Theater, Caribbean Theater, Pacific Theater, the battle for Okinawa, the battle of Leyte Gulf, the China Sea and the Philippines. After the war, **Rudy** resumed his career with the SCS retiring in 1974. From 1975-1978, **Rudy** served as a consultant for Texas A&M and U.S. AID in Dares Salaam, Tanzania, providing technical assistance in livestock marketing and range management for three years. From 1979-1981, he held a similar U.S. AID position in Mandeville, Jamaica, where he designed runoff systems in the country's mountainous regions where erosion was the most severe. In addition to his wife of 48 years, **Doris**, **Rudy** is survived by two daughters, **Karen (Mike) Newsom** of Hideaway, TX, and **Rena Pederson** of Dallas, TX; ten grandchildren; and five great-granddaughters. Memorials may be made to your favorite charity.

Roscoe "Russ" Graham (79) of Ft. Worth, TX passed away on August 8, 2011. He retired as an Air Force major after 22 1/2 years. He retired from the SCS after 22 1/2 years. He loved cats, computers, and dancing. **Russ** is survived by a daughter, **Carol E. Jones**, and sons, **Russell E. Graham** and **Ronald E. Graham**.

Vaughdeen Allen Meier (70) of Littlefield, TX passed away July 4, 2011, in Ruidoso, NM. **Vaughdeen** married **Charlie Meier** on Aug. 1, 1970, in Perryton, TX. **Charlie Meier** (retired) was a long time Soil Conservationist/Agronomist in the Littlefield, TX Field office.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Norman L. Kruse (91) of Waterville, KS passed away on December 10, 2010. He graduated from Kansas State University in 1943 with a degree in agronomy. In 1943 he entered the Army. In April 1943 **Norman** was sent to England, where he joined the 83 Infantry Division. After landing at Omaha Beach in June 1944, he took part in the five battle campaigns of the European Theater. In May 1945 at the end of the European war he served with the Army of Occupation in Germany until December. **Norman** was discharged with the rank of captain in April 1946. In 1946 he went to work for SCS in Hiawatha and later became the district conservationist for Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties. He retired in 1977. He is survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorials can be made to the Valley Heights USD 498 Foundation and sent in care of the Terry-Christie Funeral Home, Waterville.

Lawrence D. Tedford (84) of Goodland, KS passed away on July 30, 2011. He retired in 1981 as the district conservationist for the USDA SCS at Goodland. He was in the U.S. Army in the infantry and a construction machine operator in the Philippines from Feb. 2, 1945 to Dec. 14, 1946. **Lawrence** attended Sterling College and Fort Hays State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science at Agriculture. He was a single engine aircraft pilot for over 60 years. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, **Evelyn**; a daughter, **Joliene Tarvin** of Shawnee; two sons, **Terry (Linda) Tedford** of Castle Rock, CO and **Donald Tedford** of Colby, KS; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Larry Russell Heineken (70) of Wamego, Kansas, passed away on July 31, 2011. **Larry** worked over thirty years for the SCS as a Civil Engineering Technician. He worked out of Cedar Vale, Westmoreland, Topeka and Manhattan. Larry is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Sarah**, of the home, daughter, **Dawn Heineken** and her husband, **John Sullivan**, Kearney, MO; his sons, **Wally (Carolyn) Heineken** of Altus, OK, and **Toby (Regina) Heineken** of Cheyenne, WY; and six grandchildren. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Community Health Ministry and those may be sent in care of Campanella-Evans Mortuary.

Madeline Angelo (71) of Amber, NY passed away on May 20, 2011. She was the wife of former New York State Office Engineering Technician, **David Angelo**. She worked many years as a clerk for the US Post Office in Marietta. Surviving are her husband of 52 years, **David Angelo**; children, **Christine Caudwell** of England, and **Corey Angelo** of NJ; and one granddaughter. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Amber Congregational Church, 2366 Otisco Valley Road, Marietta, N.Y. 13110.

Elizabeth Anne Baughman "Libby" Wickline (89) passed away on August 13, 2011 in Lewisburg, WV. She was a retired fifth grade teacher and a graduate of Concord University of Athens, WV. She was preceded in death by her husband, **E.V. Wickline** (who retired as an Assistant State Conservationist with the SCS) and three siblings.

Senior Conservationist **John R. Worster** (88) of Fayetteville, AR passed away April 1, 2011. He graduated from Iowa State University and then began a 31 year career as a soil scientist with the USDA SCS in IA. He was an assistant state soil scientist in IA when he retired. He was the principal author of soil survey reports for two counties in IA and the co-author of others. He served as a navigator on a bomber crew in Italy during World War II. Among his awards were the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He continued his military career as an intelligence officer in the Air Force Reserve, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He and his wife moved to Fayetteville in 1982. He was a volunteer in the AARP program for income tax assistance. He is survived by his wife, **Helen**; daughter, **Anne Angulo** of Johnson; sons **Steven** of Salton City, CA, **Clifford (Debby)** of Hermitage, TN, and **Kenneth (Jennifer)** of Woodland, CA; eight grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

Connie Spangler (73) of Indianola, IA passed away August 17, 2011. She worked in Personnel for the SCS her entire career beginning in 1957 or '58 and retired in 1979. She is survived by her husband, **Richard**, a son, **Kyle (Vickey) Forst** of Knoxville, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in **Connie's** name to Wesley Hospice.

Edward John "E.J." Fanning (66) of Wasilla, AK, passed away on August 1, 2011. **E.J.** held a master's degree from Wyoming University and worked for the Department of Environmental Quality in WY, and in later years he was an environmental specialist with USDA-NRCS. He is survived by two daughters, **Mica Devon Fanning**, of Omaha, NE, and **Jamie Fauver**, of Jackson Hole, WY; and his grandchildren. A graveside service will be held at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Frederick, MD, pending final arrangements.

James H. Olson (83) of Mechanicsburg, PA passed away on July 27, 2011. **Jim** was a graduate of North Dakota State University. He retired after 33 years with the USDA SCS, having served as PA State Conservationist and Legislative Assistant at NHQ. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Marie L. (Cox) Olson**; three sons, **Loren (Susan)**, **Mark (Patti)**, and **Steve (Judy)**; and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, 13200 Linglestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17110; and Trinity Lutheran Church Alter Guild, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

Lewis K. Luckett (91) of Bedford, KY passed away on October 18, 2009. **Lewis** retired from the SCS in 1983 as a soil conservation technician.

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IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist Ernest W. Decker (97) of Clay Center, KS passed away on October 17, 2010. He graduated from Kansas State University in 1939. He taught school in Vineland, KS south of Lawrence. He served in the United States Army in Africa and Europe during WWII. **Ernest** worked as a soil conservationist for the SCS in Great Bend, Lyons, Minneapolis, and Lincoln, retiring in 1977. He then worked part time for the ASCS Office for 14 years. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Alma Decker** of Clay Center, KS; a daughter, **Marsha (Gail) Habluetzel** of Clay Center, KS; a son, **Gary (Elizabeth) Decker** of Tulsa, OK; six grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. MEMORIALS: Evangelical Covenant Church or Presbyterian Manor in care of the Neill-Schwensen-Rook Funeral Home, 918 7th St., Clay Center, KS 67432.

Robert L. Eddleman Jr. (70) of Mayfield, KY, formerly of Clinton, passed away on April 16, 2011. He is survived by his daughter, **Kizar Eddleman Luckett** of Hendersonville, TN; a son, **Rob Eddleman** of Cunningham, KY; and three grandchildren. Donations may be made to the Clinton-Hickman Rescue Squad, P. O. Box 29, Clinton, KY 42031.

Ernest (Ike) S. Johnston (87) of Cadiz, KY passed away on April 27, 2010. **Ike** retired from the SCS as a soil conservation technician.

David L. McDavid (83) of Grayson, KY passed away on October 24, 2009. **David** retired from the SCS in 1984 as a soil conservation technician.

Willie Ray Partin (86) of Columbia, KY passed away on February 27, 2011. He was a World War II veteran, a retired USDA SCS District Conservationist and a farmer. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Flora Mills Partin** of Columbia, KY; two sons **Dr. Gary L. (Elizabeth) Partin** and **Terry (Rita) Partin** of Columbia, KY; one daughter: **Sharon Lynn Palumbo** of Columbia, KY; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

David H. Reed (71) of Brownsville, KY passed away January 21, 2007 at his residence. He was a former district conservationist with the SCS, a farmer, and a U.S. Army veteran. He is survived by his son **George T. "Tim" Reed** of Brownsville. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Southern Kentucky, 1027 Broadway Avenue, Bowling Green, KY or the Edmonson County Library.

Ben Allen Sharp (90) of Sharpsburg, KY passed away on September 11, 2010. **Ben** was a retired soil conservation technician with the SCS.

Eugene "Gene" Tyler (85) of Hickory, KY passed away on March 31, 2008. He was born April 18, 1922, in Toronto, Canada. His wife, **Fern Van Hoose Tyler**, preceded him in death. **Gene** retired from the SCS in 1982 as a soil conservation technician.