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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter For Retired SCS And NRCS Employees

Vol. 39, No. 1

January/February 2012

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Lennie Losh

Congress Still Bickering - As of this writing, Congress has yet to agree on (1) A one-year extension of long-term unemployment benefits; and (2) a one year 2% Social Security payroll tax holiday. Also, held hostage is the "Doc Fix" legislation needed to provide Medicare reimbursement rates from being cut 25%. Congressional leaders expect a compromise to emerge with a deadline of December 30, 2011. (Ed. Note - As of December 22, a temporary extension has been agreed upon.)

Super Committee Fails - So now What - The Budget Control Act enacted last summer provides for an alternative avenue to achieving the \$1.2 trillion in required savings in the form of automatic across-the-board cuts or sequestration beginning January 2, 2013. Don't be surprised if Congress repeals this provision during the coming year.

Estate Law Changes - The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, Job Creation Act of 2010 (the 2010 Tax Act) made significant changes in the income tax code federal estate tax. An interesting change is the "portability" provision, that allows any unused gift and estate tax exemptions of a deceased spouse, to be transferred to the surviving spouse. This legislation expires beginning January 1, 2013.

The USDA Farm Bill 2012 - Three major groups are battling for the ear of the House and Senate Committees developing the updated Farm Bill: (1) Farm and Commodity groups; (2) Conservation/Environmental/Wildlife groups; and (3) Supporters of spending on food stamps and nutrition programs for the poor. In USDA, the serious proposals address crop revenue programs and enhanced crop insurance. Such proposals are designed to eliminate commodity program payments (direct farm payments and countercyclical payments). Commodity, conservation, nutrition, and crop insurance compose 99% of farm bill spending.

Groups and organizations, recognizing the budget cuts forthcoming, are supporting a reduction in the number of eligible acres for the Conservation Reserve Program, capping the Conservation Stewardship Program, and maintaining current spending level for NRCS's EQIP.

85% of the American population say they feel happy everyday according to Gallup Poll data. Are you among the remaining 15% who need to stop and smell the roses? Oh, (happy day to all).

A BIT OF HISTORY

Jerry Hytry, Historian

It was in 1973, almost four years after his retirement, that **Don Williams** [former SCS Administrator] took action to determine if there was any interest in forming an SCS retiree's association. In June of that year, at his own expense, he sent letters to 1000 retirees. Over 200 favorable responses were received. That was enough incentive for **Don** to continue his efforts to form what became the Association of Retired Soil Conservation Employees. He then formed an "interim committee" that met for the first time on August 23, 1973.

I'll let you know who served on that committee and the results of the meeting in the next newsletter.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Berkland

I want to thank all of you that took time to let me know if you wanted to receive the Newsletter electronically or as a hard copy. The response has been overwhelming in support of receiving it electronically in order to save money. I especially want to thank those that responded electronically, as my email address was listed incorrectly in my Presidents column. It is: mberkland@homesc.com. So, if you still want to respond, please let me know what you think we should do. While only one person responded that since they do not have a computer they need to continue receiving the newsletter in hard copy, I know there are others that want to continue for the same reason. I plan on having a Board of Directors conference call in January to discuss and decide what direction we want to go with this and what will be the next step. I will keep you posted on the results of the conference call.

In this Newsletter, I want to talk about why I think Retirees should join our Association.

- 1) The South Carolina Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) just had our Fall meeting. The meeting reminded me of some of the reasons why I am a member of ARCSE. I have been retired for a little over nine years now and being at the meeting and seeing a lot of the folks I worked with, it was like it was only a couple of months ago that I retired. I really enjoy talking to the friends I made while working in South Carolina—they are really good folks and because we worked for SCS/NRCS we have a lot in common to talk about. I enjoyed catching up on their families and what they are involved with now.
- 2) Because I worked in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, South Carolina and in Washington DC, I really enjoy the Newsletter and seeing where some of the folks I worked with are living and what they are doing. I had a recent retiree here in South Carolina tell me that they were not interested in joining so they could get the Newsletter because they had always worked in South Carolina and had no interest in what folks were doing in other states. We then talked about all the folks that had worked in South Carolina and had been selected to work in other states. She started naming some of these folks (**Dave White** being one of them) and it became apparent that she did have an interest in the people in those other states.
- 3) Recently the South Carolina ARCSE group has been combining tours with their luncheons and meetings. I know a lot of other states do this as well—South Carolina kind of stole this idea by reading the Newsletter. Recently, we have toured an ARS farm in Florence, SC; a thorough-bred race horse training facility and museum near Santee, SC; and recently the BMW plant near Greenville, SC. These have all been very interesting and things I would not have taken the time to see if I were not a member of ARCSE.

I know that we each have our reasons for being ARCSE members—I have just listed a few reasons why I am a member. I encourage you to share these and more with new retirees in your state when you ask them to become a member of ARCSE. As you know, there is something

**DEADLINE FOR
MAR/APR 2012
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 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

magical about retiring right after January 1st. This is a good time to find out who has made the decision to retire in your state and the invite them to become members.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow

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

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

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

COLORADO

Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative

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I opened my Denver Post this morning (Dec 30, 2011) to a picture on the front page with the following caption: "**Mike Gillespie**, snow survey supervisor for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado, reads the weight of the snow inside the collection tube held by **Mike Ardison**. **Gillespie** retires at the end of today after 31 years of doing snow surveys." I have never met **Mike Gillespie** but have read his reports in the Denver Post during the 17 years that I have lived in CO. **Mike's** report indicated that this is the fourth-driest tally in 30 years. Hopefully this will improve in the next 2 or 3 months for the benefit of all of you that enjoy CO skiing.

On Nov 7th, 2011, **Senior Conservationist Bob Dansdill** celebrated his 95th birthday. As reported by his daughter, "What a momentous milestone! For 95 years Dad has lived

a life of integrity; demonstrating selfless generosity, quiet faith in God, and steadfast love of family and friends. His life has been - and is – an example and blessing to us all.”

In mid 2011 Colorado NRCS State Conservationist **Allen Green** retired after 30 years service. **Phyllis Philipps** has been named as CO's new State Conservationist.

Kent Ververs reported that he is moving out of the Denver Metropolitan Area to a slower life style in Loveland, CO.

GEORGIA

George Norris, ARCSE Representative
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A total of eighteen SCS Retirees of the Athens, GA area Retired SCS and NRCS Employees group met at the Picadilly Restaurant at the Georgia Square Mall on Oct. 27, 2011 for their fall meeting. Those present were: **Carolyn Adams, Jim & Judith Helm, Cecil & Jean Martin, Bill & Norma White, Talbert Gerald, Vivian Patten, Gerald & Evelyn Sadler, Linda Dipietro, Will Thorpe, Dick & Barbara Andersen, Bob & Frances Wilkes, and Rick Main.** A good time was had by all.

Good news was reported concerning **Jimmy Dean** in his injury recovery progress. He is beginning to walk some as he recovers use of his legs and arms. It was reported that **Clair Lowery**, widow of deceased retiree **Frank Lowery**, is now living in an assisted care facility in Athens.

Linda Dipietro discussed names of newly retired persons and encouraged members to contact them about joining and participating in the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. A significant benefit is receiving the monthly NEWSLETTER with news of many other retiree friends.

Even though **George & Ellen Norris** are no longer in the cattle business, The Farm is still home to a small herd of Angus cattle and **George & Ellen** are the resident “eyes and ears” for the herd’s owner. Following an incident on Nov. 2nd, the local newspaper carried the following story by **Don Collins**, a regular columnist for the paper.

Around The Square

By Don Collins

Wayward Cow Tale Is No Bull

Last Wednesday evening, the Pastor of Life Springs Church, **Kyle Smith**, was informed by a member of his youth group that a cow was wandering through the grounds. **Kyle** got into his vehicle and proceeded to follow the wayward cow. It became apparent to him the cow was headed for Highway 19. He called **George Norris** who along with his wife **Ellen** who lives on “The Farm”, a designated Centennial Farm located on Cook Road. By the time **George & Ellen** arrived, a Deputy from the Sheriff’s Department arrived and began controlling the traffic on 19. Several more neighbors and church members joined in to try and corral the recalcitrant bovine and looked to have the situation well in hand until she turned tail and headed for the woods.

Traffic that had been backed up began to flow again and the Deputy resumed his patrol. **George** continued to follow the cow and after sighting her again making her way toward Highway 19, a call was placed and three Deputies were dispatched to control traffic and help get the cow out of harm’s way. This time with the urging of a bull in the pasture across

the highway, the entourage was able to get the cow across Highway 19 and 4 lanes of rush hour commuter traffic. Just when it looked like they would be successful in getting her into the pasture, she managed to get loose and head down the fence line with **Sergeant Goldston** running after her in hot pursuit. He was able to get ahead of her and turn her around, after a sprint of about 150 yards. The wranglers were successful in getting her into the fenced pasture with the help of the bull who had taken a vested interest in the pursuit.

The traffic was allowed to flow again and the excitement died down enough for **George & Ellen** to go to the Church for the Wednesday night service. It was not, however, to be the end of the “bovine adventure”. The cow jumped the fence and took the bull with her on the continuation of her adventure. Unfortunately she had no deputies to stop the traffic on Highway 19 this time. The cow and a vehicle driven by **Jennifer Gibson** collided just south of Cook Road on Highway 19. The car was disabled but the injured cow continued down to Highway 109 where she wandered in front of a car driven by **Elizabeth Butler**. The cow, all 1250 pounds would do no more roaming. She was severely injured and had to be put down. **Silas Mask**, a neighbor, had tried to help in the first trek and volunteered to put the cow out of her misery. **Deputy Ray** and **Deputy Griffis** returned to file the two accident reports.

Mr. Mask, with the help of deputies and neighbors removed the dead animal from the scene to the jail where the carcass was transported by the Pike County Public Works Department under the supervision of **Todd Goolsby** for burial in the Lamar County landfill.

We are a County of individuals, most of whom work outside the County. On this night it was a coming together of Citizens to try and do what was right. The outcome was not what we would have chosen but everyone was working together for the common good.

Now, where is the bull? **George** and friends searched unsuccessfully through the night to locate him. They gave up and went home to get some sleep.

George got up early Thursday and there by the gate to the pasture was the bull, waiting to be let back inside.

There really is no place like home.

IDAHO

Stan Hobson, ARCSE Representative
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The Idaho retirees met for lunch Nov. 17 to avoid the big turkey day, and perhaps that might explain the lower numbers, but fourteen folks isn’t bad. The ever-reliable **Stewarts, Don & Maxine** were there; they’re busy getting their trailer emptied out so they can sell it. It seems it’s that time of life for them but they got a good many years out of it and many fish caught and consumed. **Jerry & Carol Larson** were in attendance and we were pleased to see **Carol**. She has been involved in other important stuff for a number of months but rejoined us this month. Good to see her again. **Wayne & Gerry Faude** completed the couples at the luncheon but didn’t offer any more bear stories; the one they experienced and told about last month should last them a while.

Jim Cornwell, George James, John Hendrick, Paul Calverly, Sharon Norris, Amos Garrison, Dennis

Froeming, and I were the singles. **Paul Calverly** reported on his attendance at the IASCD annual meeting; they too are experiencing difficult economic times. **George James** is still involved with the Red Cross, still giving of his blood and time, two very precious commodities. Thanks, **George**, for your generosity.

We in ID are looking forward to a snowy winter, at least in the mountains, and hope each of you has an opportunity to pause in your busy schedules to thank all those around you for their friendship and fellowship with all us human beings.

We had nigh onto 20 folks join us for our Christmas luncheon, all abiding the joys of the season; smiles all around. Perhaps, in part, because we had the pleasure of having **Tom Curtis** from Portland join us. He brought with him **Ceva Bush**, from here in Boise, and a long time acquaintance. It seems **Tom** and **Darrell Gallup** spent considerable amount of time in the girls dorm at the University of Idaho some 60+ years ago, in **Ceva's** dorm. Now before any of you read too much into that, the trio of **Tom**, **Darrell**, and **Ceva** were "hashers and dishwashers" in the cafeteria of the dormitory. We had the pleasure to eavesdrop on the remembrances of this group and they had the fun of reliving the experience. The **Curtises** and **Bushs** have had several get-togethers over the years and now we have confirmation of the girls' dorm stories. Thanks for stopping by, **Tom**.

The lunch was attended by the **Gallups**, **Darrell & Gladine**; the **Froemings** from Emmett, **Dennis & Mary**; the **Stewarts**, **Don & Maxine**; the **Chrismans**, **Gene and Bev**; and the **Larsons**, **Jerry and Carol**. The singles in the group included: **Jim Cornwell**, soon to depart for Hawaii for **Linda's** family's holiday celebrations; **George James**, **Ellen Nutt**, **Sharon Norris**, **Amos Garrison**, **John Kendrick**, **Frank Fink**, **Wayne Faude**, and **Joe Icenhower**. Everyone is staying here in town for the Christmas Holiday (except for **Jim & Linda**), and all of us were thinking of family as we swapped stories about numbers of grandkids and great grandkids and trees and decorations and pogo sticks and dolls. 'Tis the season to be jolly and all these homey topics and obvious love of family, friends and homes was abundantly plentiful for all of us.

We had an unexpected visit from about 20 kids from an elementary school nearby come into our meeting room and serenade us along with their teacher, guitar player with several Jolly Christmas songs. They were songs us oldsters knew the words to, so we joined in the singing and clapping and swaying to the music. As we became involved the kids enjoyed it more and more and so collectively we had a JOLLY OLD TIME.

Lest we forget! We collectively wish each and every one of you Happy Christmas and New Year.

As an aside, and regarding the new year, **Sharon Norris** will be the State Representative for ARCSE here in ID. Her email address is snorris0889@hotmail.com. Now she will begin to get the recognition she deserves.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative

Another great holiday luncheon was enjoyed by 64 retirees and their families at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Des Moines Nov. 17th. Once again the weather cooperated, especially for the many from out of town, some attending for

the very first time since they retired. We think they enjoyed themselves enough to want to come back next year – same place and approximately the same date.

Marge Miller made the arrangements including providing a wrapped present for each guest. In some cases, the presents were too big for wrapping paper so she borrowed several of Santa's toy bags and had Santa leave those gifts behind the "green door". As names were drawn to pick a package those willing to take a "chance" could select from "behind the door". **Ron Snyder** was one of them.

Attending were **Joe Ausan**, **Ron Walker** Ankeny; **Dave & Paige Rohlf**, Altoona; **Chuck & Phyllis Fisher**, **Russ & Donna Knutson**, **Herman & Helen Kopitzke**, **Jan Schmidt**, **Gerald & Marion Stevens**, **Eldon & Jeannie Weber**, Ames; **Ron & Marsha Snyder**, Burlington; **Lyle & Charlotte Asell**, Chariton; **Brian Petersen**, Corning; **Louis Boeckman**, **Tom & Beverley Braymen**, Creston; **Jim Ayen**, **Margaret Dysart**, **Don Frevert**, **Mark & Ann Jensen**, **Bev & Darhol Miller**, **Duane & Mary Jo Miller**, **Marge Miller**, **Dennis Peterson**, **Don & Kay Peterson**, **Bernie Runkel**, **Jack & Maralee Sarasio**, **Volney Smith**, **Don & Doris Ummel**, Des Moines; **Art & Mary Jane Bryant**, Indianola; **Rod Martin**, Johnston; **Lew & Connie Brent**, Knoxville; **Ron & Jo Hersom**, Marshalltown; **Duane Ortgies**, Massena; **Roger & Donita Link**, Maxwell; **Debbie Cavett**, Norwalk; **Don & Dortha Borts**, Sigourney; **Dick & Marian Hall**, Sioux City; **Don Carlson**, Storm Lake; **Don & Donna Redman**, Van Wert; **Dale Frank & daughter Nancy Hanson**, Winterset; **Norm & Barbara Koester**, Plattsmouth, NE.

The Machine Shed gave a gift card which was in the present selected by **Don Peterson**. A \$25 gift card from IHOP, where our weekly breakfast bunch meets, was in a present selected by **Dale Frank**. **Duane Miller** received recognition for being the first to send in his reservation – the prize – a green top hat he can wear on St. Patrick's Day next March. Several notes of interest, **Lyle Asell** saw **Jim Dustin**, a recent SO retiree, at a model railroad meet. **Jim** belongs to the club in Indianola. The State-wide Retirees Reunion will be this summer. **Lyle Asell** and **Brian Peterson** will be planning that. We hope to see all those who attended the holiday party, and many more, at the reunion.

Our thoughts and expressions of sympathy are extended to families of several of our retirees who passed away during the past year. They were **Ray Linthicum**, Newton; **Leo Duree**, Chariton; **Martin Hintz**, Mount Ayr, (brother of **Ernie Hintz**); **Jay Sheley**, Guthrie Center; and **Marlene Meyer**, Des Moines, widow of **Marty Meyer**.

Congratulation goes to **Brian Peterson**, retired DC from Corning. He shares this with us. "The Wallaces Farmer Master Farmer program has been recognizing outstanding Iowa farmers for 75 years. They also recognize individuals that have provided outstanding service to Iowa farmers through their Exceptional Service Award program. Wallaces Farmers magazine presented me with the 2011 Iowa Master Farmer Exceptional Service Award. I am only the 12th person to receive an Exceptional Service Award in the past 75 years. The award was presented to me to honor my career of helping Iowa farmers through my work in soil,

water and grassland conservation. I am also the only SCS/NRCS employee to have ever received this award.”

We have royalty among us. **Ron & Jo Hersom**, Marshalltown, are RV Travelers. They were elected International Retiree King & Queen for the Family Campers & RVers at the annual winter rally in Canton, TX last March. Since then they have traveled more than 15,000 miles to chapters in many states. The annual rally will be in Tallahassee next March, where they will surrender their crowns to the next selected couple. They have been going south for winter since '95 when he retired as DC at Mason City and for the last 6 years have been going to Leisure World RV Park at Weslaco, TX.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative
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As I prepare the Kansas news, I am dreaming of a white Christmas. Our first major winter storm is moving across the state today with predictions of blizzard conditions and lots of snow in many areas.

John Reh and **Lawrence Wetter**, two retired engineers living in Salina, are serving as part of the city's Infrastructure Advisory Team which gives the city of Salina access to many years of valuable experience from retired professionals. The team's main purpose is giving technical viewpoints to the city on various projects. A far cry from planning watersheds or designing dams, **John** and **Lawrence** have helped tackle a 29-chapter document on new construction specifications which laid out standards for construction of housing developments and curb and guttering. The team then worked on the Smoky Hill River Renewal Project presenting some alternative ideas and scenarios and pointing out some issues that needed to be addressed. Their latest project is a pavement management schedule to plan for road maintenance within the city. Since other communities could benefit from a group like this, the state is creating a database of retired professionals to help cities tap a specific expertise.

Lawrence Wetter continues to write a weekly column for the Salina Journal. A number of readers don't agree with his views while many others do; consequently, he receives many comments from both sides of the fence.

My sincere condolences are sent to the **William Foerschler** family for **Helen's** passing. In the last newsletter I highlighted several of our senior conservationists only to learn shortly after the newsletter was sent to the printer that **Helen** had passed away. We certainly will miss her at the KS annual meeting next summer.

Although there are a number of retirements announced for the end of Dec., there is only one to report at this time - **Michael Dassel-Stuke**, Soil Conservation Technician at the Hiawatha Field Office, retired in Nov.

Mike Ahern recently had a knee replaced and is on the road to recovery. **Guy McClaskey** is scheduled for a knee replacement in Jan. **James McDowell**, a soil scientist in the KS State Office, will be retiring the end of Dec. and will move to Oklahoma City the middle of Jan. to await a heart transplant.

LOUISIANA

Joe Branco, ARCSE Representative
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The 17th annual Louisiana SCS-NRCS Retiree's luncheon was held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Alexandria, LA. The retirees started gathering at 10:00AM to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation.

There were 37 retirees and guests in attendance. Those present were: **Joe & Marge Branco, Marilyn Rabalais, Rodney Verzwylt, Max Johnston & Sybil Ray, Dale & Sylvia Rockett, Paul & Sandra Miletello, Gene Warren, Catherine Sloan, Valine Collard, Betty Jones, Ed Hickey, Ken Mixon, Marty Floyd, James & Robin Loe, Wayne Melancon, James Winston, Frances & Helen Artley, Harry Hawthorne, Dozier & Winnie Harrell, Jerry & Janie Daigle, Warren Cockerham, Thomas Campbell, Don Menard, Mr. & Mrs. John O'Conner, and Mr. & Mrs. David Haggard.**

Ken Mixon gave the invocation before the group enjoyed the cafeteria lunch. After lunch, in honor of Veterans Day, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given and a silent prayer was observed.

Joe Branco welcomed everyone. He stated that the attendance was down a little but still very good. Letters or phone calls were received from: **Chester Bellard, Carl Thompson, Hugh Tidwell, Wayne Talbot, Paul Wallace, Martha Price, Ronnie Venson, and Pat Cecil** stating that they were sorry but couldn't make the meeting.

Joe introduced and welcomed **Sara Haymaker**. **Sara** is the ASTC for Operations. She is representing **Kevin Norton**, STC, who could not be present. **Sara** informed us of her prior work experiences before becoming the ASTC for Operations. She also told us about the current activities and status of the NRCS in the State.

Max Johnston reported on the current activities of retirees. **Max** reported that four retirees have passed away since our last luncheon. They were **Olin T. (Judge) Seely** (Dec. 2010), **Irvin L. Sonnier** (4-13-2011), **Garland P. Colvin** (4-27-2011), and **Donald McDaniel** (6-2-2011)

Max reported that **Ed Giering** was involved in a serious auto accident a couple weeks ago and is recovering in a Shreveport hospital.

There was a discussion held on the open season on health insurance, the proposed COLA increase of 3.6% and the Medicare B increase.

The group thanked the planning committee for their work. They are **Paul Miletello, Dale Rockett, Warren Cockerham, Marilyn Rabalais, Max Johnston, and Joe Branco.**

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

MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative
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This report takes up from my last report on June 11, 2011. The Maine group has a 9 am breakfast at Dysarts Truck Stop and

Restaurant in Hermon on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (basically for the Central ME and Bangor area retirees). We also have a summer luncheon meeting for southern ME folks in July in Gray, ME on the second Wednesday of July, and another noon luncheon meeting in Aroostook County on the second Wednesday of Oct. for the northern folks.

On July 12, 2011 at breakfast at Dysarts in Hermon the five in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Ed Snow, and Noreen & John Simon.** **Ed Snow** updated us on the goings on in FL during the winters. He is one great spokesman for FL. **Ed** has three daughters, and their children, in the greater Bangor Area that keep **Ed** busy in the summers. I doubt that **Ed** would come back to ME in the summers if it were not for his kids.

During the month of July **Art Taylor, and Noreen & John Simon** attended the funeral of **Ray Herrington** who had passed away in the spring. **Ray** had been a technician with the Watershed Planning staff for many years. Many great stories of **Ray's** hunting and fishing expeditions with his kids and friends were shared with those present. The celebration of life get together that was held after the funeral was very touching with all of us able to meet and talk to **Barbara** and her children.

Parker Rand, who worked with SCS before moving over to the ASCS group, passed away recently. He used to come to our breakfasts occasionally. **Parker** was a fishing buddy of **Joe Bertolaccini.** Most of those in the Orono state office knew **Parker** quite well because of his time spent on the Watershed Planning Staff. I first met **Parker** when he first came to one of our breakfasts and was introduced to him. He was quite a guy. He was a good friend of my sister-in-law's husband **Wayne Carson** before he passed away several years ago.

Our friend and ex-DC, **Vaughn Rasar** passed away on July 11. **Vaughn** was an organic grower on his farm and had a passion for soil quality. **Vaughn** was largely responsible for starting the 3-day courses on soil quality in the Bangor area. The RC&D office sponsored the sessions and managed to get many world famous presenters. I went to these sessions for 5 years in a row and was very excited and inspired about the potential of biological and organic farming. All the speakers were amazing and practical. They showed how organic and biological farming is both workable and profitable and produces nutrient dense produce. What a legacy **Vaughn** has left for ME!

On July 13, 2011 we had our annual noon luncheon at Coles Restaurant in Gray, ME for the retirees in southern ME. We had nine in attendance this year. The nine in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Wayne Monroe, Walter Stinson, John Malley, Florence & Ralph Walker, Mary McEwen, and Noreen & John Simon.** **Wayne Monroe** is presently DC in Scarborough, ME. He wanted to attend our retirees' luncheon to confirm the rumor that SCS retirees were enjoying life after work. He knew all of us and was impressed with our attitudes.

Florence & Ralph Walker were kind enough to bring **Mary McEwen**, who lives near them, with them this year to the luncheon. **Mary** is the wife of **Bryce McEwen** who passed away quite a few years ago. I worked with **Bryce** for years out of the Auburn, ME district office and knew him well. **Ralph** had worked with **Bryce** for even a longer time at the same location. **Bryce** had been a soil scientist out of the Auburn office for years and once the soils mapping and report were

finished for Androscoggin County he jumped over to the DC job after **Leroy Bingham** retired.

Walter Stinson who founded the consulting engineering firm of Sebago Technics in 1980, indicated that he plans to retire at the end of 2011. I am not sure how many years **Walt** worked with SCS before leaving, but he has fond memories of his time. His engineering firm is now quite large and well respected for their work. It was **Walt's** engineering position in Auburn, ME that I came back to from Harrisburg, PA to fill early in 1980. Remember 1980 when the interest rate on homes was 20%?

On Aug. 9, 2011 at the 9 AM Breakfast at Dysarts the seven in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy & Charlie Boothby, Lois Bowie, and Noreen & John Simon.** The ladies shared tons of family information, we guys talked about the other stuff.

Dave Mussulman sent me an email about the recent canoe race he was in. He was one of many NRCS folks in a "war canoe race" that is held annually on the Stillwater River in Old Town, ME. The war canoes hold 10 people. Of the six boats competing, the NRCS boat finished third. They finished in just under 31 minutes for the non-stop hard paddling. **Dave** said he knew only two of the NRCS folks, **Dan Schmidt** (DC in Bangor and **Chris Jones** of the state office). **Dave** also reports that his arms were plenty sore after that race!

Joe Bertolaccini sent me an email about his "trip of a lifetime" to Alaska. He and **Ellie** enjoyed boat, train, and plane rides to multiple places in AK and accumulated over 650 photographs. The scenery was spectacular, the fishing was great, and the accommodations very comfortable. In spite of all the rides and plane flights they did not experience one glitch in their luggage in all that time! They went to Katmai National Park, Anchorage, went from Denali to near Mt. McKinley (it was fogged in) and back to Fairbanks, then on to the Yukon Territories traveling by narrow gage railroad over to Skagway. Then on a boat to Glacier Bay and on to Vancouver, BC to fly home. **Joe** said the sun set at 12:36 am in the morning and then quickly rose again at 3:12 am and stayed light in between. He has photos to prove it.

On Sept. 13 our Breakfast at Dysarts was changed to a noon luncheon at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer. The five in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Judy & Charlie Boothby, Sterling Dymond, and John Simon.**

Come to find out, **Sterling** turned 91 on Sept. 26 so we used the luncheon as a sort of birthday celebration. **Sterling's** brother **Willie Dymond** who is 87 was unable to attend. **Sterling** and **Willie** both worked in the state office for years. We talked about Hansen Brook Lake in Presque Isle, ME. **Sterling** did some of the drafting, **Gerald Bowie** was the Project Engineer (and Government Rep.), **Arden Bull** was the inspector, and **Charlie Boothby** was the contracting officer. This was in the mid 1960s.

On Oct. 11, 2011 at Breakfast at Dysarts we had six in attendance. They were: **Art Taylor, Judy & Charlie Boothby, Ron & Penelope Olson** (visiting from MI), and **John Simon.** **Ron & Penelope** were visiting their son in Bangor, ME. Their son and wife have a new baby boy so that is an attraction for them both. Their son grew up in Hampden, ME and has a good job in Bangor, so when **Ron**

& Penelope retired and went to MI to live with **Penelope's** mom, the son stayed behind. **Ron** had been an area soil scientist out of the Bangor office for years and years. **Ron Olson, Chris Jones, Richard Ferland,** and myself spent a week (mid 1990s I believe) in Canada giving a training session to conservation folks up there. The four of us had a great time and did a real good job of passing along a lot of information to the Canadians.

On Oct. 12, 2011 we had our fall noon luncheon at Governors Restaurant in Presque Isle, ME. The seven in attendance were: **Art Taylor, Charlie Boothby, Louise & Bob Lagassey, Phil Christensen,** and **Noreen & John Simon.** Before lunch on our way up to Presque Isle, **Art, Charlie, Noreen,** and **John** toured the Aroostook State Park. Quite a pretty spot. After that we visited the National site of the trans-atlantic balloon lift off in Presque Isle, ME. They have a small park with monuments and signs depicting the event. I have a picture of that for anyone interested.

After a pleasant lunch the group broke up with **Phil** heading home. The remaining six of us drove over to see the SCS dam on Hanson Brook that creates the beautiful Hanson Lake recreation and flood control lake. **Art** and **John** both had lots to do with this dam built in the mid to late 1960s. **John** remembers being on the survey crew that surveyed the site in the summer of 1961 for goodness sake. **Gerald Bowie** was also on the survey crew in 1961 and was the resident engineer and government representative during construction some years later. At the time he and **Lois** and family lived in Presque Isle. **Charlie Boothby** was the contracting officer for Hansen during construction, paying all the bills to the contractor. **Charlie** was the head of the State S&W Conservation Commission at the time. That agency no longer exists.

The dam is kept up quite nicely, except for a line of shrubs along the upstream waterline berm embedded in the riprap. The shrubs do no harm and sort of help to act as an additional wave protection mechanism (something to think about). I have seen ponds where shrubs are a problem but only because of a lack of riprap. The shrubs add to the wildlife habitat along the waterline berm, so that makes a nice difference. SCS and the COE hate trees and shrubs on dams but in this case it was a plus. The rest of the dam is kept well mowed and maintained. Hopefully next year we can find some more retirees in Aroostook. Both **Cliff Roy** and **Linwood Holmquist** are in their late 80s and could not attend. They did attend last year's luncheon at Mars Hill. **Cliff** has had some recent surgery and **Linwood** is unable to drive. Maybe next year in 2012.

On Nov. 8, 2011 at Breakfast in Dysarts we had six in attendance. They were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy & Charlie Boothby, Joe Bertolaccini,** and **John Simon.** In the course of telling **Joe** about my re start up in guitar playing (I had stopped playing in 1955), **Joe** indicated that he too played the guitar but not recently. I urged him to start up again so he and I and **Dave Mussulman** can do some rap sessions this summer on my back deck. We will see if both of us are ready. Come to find out there is a lot of musical activity among us retirees in ME. Maybe we should cut some sort of conservation record or something. **Al Dow** plays the Piano, **Bill Moulton** plays the guitar, anyone else? We would need a drummer at least to keep the timing proper.

On Dec. 13, 2011 at Breakfast at Dysarts we had four in attendance. They were: **Bruce Champeon, Judy & Charlie Boothby,** and **John Simon.** All in attendance were in apparent good health and high spirits. The day turned out to be a warm (in the 30s) sunny day with little or no wind so it was good to be out and about. All of us are apparently staying close by during this Christmas season.

Noreen's younger sister usually hosts a day long party at her place. I plan on joining several of the youngsters in the group in playing Christmas songs on the guitar. We will see how that turns out!

Noreen & John spent the thanksgiving week with their son **Peter** and his family in Montclair, NJ (home of **Yogi Berra**). Montclair is about 12 miles west of Yankee Stadium. The grandkids age 5 and 3, as usual, wore out Nana and Grampa big time. They were quite tired when we got home! All the **Simon** family went into NYC on Sunday to see the Rockettes in their Christmas show. Wow, what a show!

While in Montclair we were fortunate to miss the 10" of heavy snow that fell on Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. When we got back the following Tuesday there was hardly any snow showing, only where it had been plowed.

Art Taylor and **John Simon** finished the topographic survey in early Dec. on his planned house lot. It has been cleared and the topo that **Art** had was incomplete in several spots. The original map was done by **Art** and **Brian Stuart** before all the trees had been harvested.

Art showed off his finished new addition to his existing home. What a beautiful addition. As you may know **Art Taylor** has made lots of beautiful furniture and his wood working skill shows on the carpentry of this addition.

Heard from **Dave Popp** recently. He said he had a valve job and timing tune up on his heart. In other words, he had a new valve put in and a pacemaker. He had his work done at the VA hospital in the Boston area. He is feeling fine and plans on a few months of quiet recovery. **Dave** indicates that he had his best year yet from his four cranberry beds. Three of his four beds were way over 200 barrels per acre - that is considered a real good average. **Dave** still has strawberries and some raspberries. He indicates that the local wine makers like to buy lots of the raspberries for flavoring of their wines. Sounds good to me.

Bill Moulton sent an email recently and indicated he is busy this fall/winter on genealogical studies for lawyers trying to find lost relatives of deceased persons. When he is not doing that, he is playing guitar with his wife **Pat** who plays the piano. OK, **Bill.**

Guess that is it from all of us up here in ME. May all of you have a prosperous, healthy, and happy new year. Take care and God Bless.

MASSACHUSETTS

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As I write this on Christmas Day I have some predictions for the New Year. I predict that **Nancy Sheard**, Engineering Tech. in Amherst will retire before 2012 begins. **Nancy** started

as an Engineering Aide with Hydrologist **Luther McDougal**. Her first assignment was on a water quality windshield survey throughout the state – “They paid me to drive around and look out the window all day.” **Nancy** was drawn away from SCS by the lure of the Post Office; she was a clerk, carrier, and finally Postmaster in Leverett, MA and Bernardston, MA. Calling those the worst years of her life, she took a pay cut and returned to the promised land – NRCS. Less money but much nicer people. **Nancy** and husband **Fred** have bought a place in ME and will split their time between Gill, MA, and ME.

I’m ready to make another prediction that **Paul Benjamin**, Engineering Tech. in Pittsfield, MA will be walking out the door for the final time before 2012. After 36 years in the Hadley, MA and Pittsfield Field Offices **Paul** will be hanging up his hard hat and leaving PL-566, EWP, and CO-01 engineering design and inspection to someone else. But, “**Benjie**” is thinking about coming back to NRCS as an ACES Enrollee a few hours a week.

It’s also becoming clearer to me that **Carl Gustafson**, State Conservation Engineer will join the ranks of the retired multitudes before the start of 2012. **Carl** has over 40 years of service starting in Ellensburg, WA and Renton, WA followed by assignments in IL, ID, and PA before coming back home to MA as Engineer in the Raynham, MA Field Office. **Carl’s** replacement has already been selected so no lapse will be earned due to **Carl’s** departure. **Carl** is an accomplished wood worker (much more than bird houses and door stops) and I expect he will be refining his talents in that area.

My final prediction probably won’t come to pass before 2012 starts but Jan. 2012 is a good bet that **John Kick**, Assistant State Conservationist, will be retiring. **John** started with SCS 36 years ago at the Big Flats, NY Plant Materials Center. After that was a stint as a Soil Scientist (it’s in his genes- his Dad, **Leslie** was a Soil Scientist) In 1988, **John** became the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist which led to a Masters degree in GIS from the University of Buffalo at Uncle Sam’s expense. In MA, **John** was the Natural Resources Inventory Leader followed by his three-year stint as Assistant State Con. **John** is an Amherst, MA Town Meeting Member, Election Precinct Warden, and a member of the Board of Assessors. I predict some more political involvement during the next election campaign.

That’s all of the future I can predict right now; let me know how I did.

MISSOURI

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We welcome new retirees to our ranks. They are: **Marge Lynn-Tapley** and **Doug Wallace** from the State Office as well as **Laura Cowert** from the Springfield Area Office. We are saddened to learn of the deaths of 2 of our retirees - **Dave Mackey** and **Vern Stephens**.

Ray Hudak had his cancerous spleen removed this past July. It was the size of a football. He underwent twelve weeks of chemo beginning last Aug. At six weeks he had a CT scan which looked good and he is scheduled for a follow-up scan in mid Dec. He is doing well, recovering from neuropathy and weakness. He never was overweight, so losing 50 lbs didn’t do him any favors. He is working hard to

recover back to his active lifestyle. He anticipates at least a 3 month recovery period. He had grey zone lymphoma, which is a combination of Hodgkin’s (Burkett’s) and non-Hodgkin’s (large B cell) lymphoma. Ray’s email address is: talkingtreehuda@wildmail.com.

Ed Smith: Not too much unusual going on at the **Smith** household; getting ready for Christmas which will include a 6 week old great-grandson for the first time; getting ready for our annual trip to sunny FL on the 28th; and still trying to get in a couple of rounds of golf each week (tee time at 11 this morning). I’ve also been kept busy keeping the leaves raked and mulched. Seems as if there are more this year or maybe it’s just “old” me. Wishing all my old SCS friends a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a good, safe and healthy year in 2012.

Doug Wallace: I retired! Let me know if you need any more details.

Alton Taylor (from TX): Our usual schedule: our daughter and husband will fly into Dallas Christmas day and drive us to MO on the 26th where we do a late Christmas. Then return to TX in a few days and send the son-in-law home and keep daughter for a few more days. MO has six of our seven grand children and one great; we have one grand now transplanted to TX.

Lane Thurman: We are just staying in out of the cold, trying to stay warm. **Nancy** and I did make an overnight trip down to Branson to see Glen Campbell in his “Farewell Tour”. I don’t know if you have heard or not, he has Alzheimer’s creeping up on him and starting to take over. He put on a good show but had to have monitors on stage to keep him on track and help him remember the words to the music.....

Lane further reports that the Springfield SCS-NRCS retirees group met at the Golden Corral on Oct. 20th for the quarterly meeting. We had a good meeting of visiting, remembering old times, and meeting some new members to our group who recently retired, and some outside of the local group.....

Laura Cowart has just returned from a River Boat Cruise in Europe, starting in Amsterdam and ending in Prague. Her trip took her down or on three rivers of Europe where she said they kept seeing the ABC, “Another Blood Castle”. She gave us a real good program with no notice as I asked her when she got to the meeting to give the program, which she gladly did. **Laura** is one of the newer members having just retired in Aug. Other new members attending the meeting were **Virginia Roberts** and **Peggy Fricke**.... The usuals in attendance were: **Wayne & Mary Weaver**, newly-weds **Jim & Mary Lou Andrews**, **Claris Wildermuth**, **Jerry Dodd**, **Forest Tindall**, and **Lane Thurman**..... Our next meeting will be on Jan. 19, 2012 at the Golden Corral.

Mike Blaine: It has been an interesting fall for me to say the least. On a Friday night in late Aug. I suddenly started having severe pain in my belly. A trip to the ER and subsequent tests showed I had a bleeding ulcer. So I have changed my eating habits (a little) and have taken steps to remove at least some of the items that were causing me stress..... Then in Oct. I went to see my daughters in PA and WV. The morning after we got there I started feeling terrible and struggled with it for a week then went to an urgent care site near my daughter in PA. They told me I had the flu. We traveled to my other daughter in WV the next day. I continued to get worse. Sunday night went to the ER in Charleston WV and after

looking me over and doing more tests the ER doctor came to me and said, "Mr. Blaine, we are admitting you to the medical center. You are a very sick man". I could have told him that without all those tests!!! I was severely dehydrated and had a bad case of pneumonia. The first day in the medical center I had seven IV's going in me at the same time. I was in the hospital 6 days. When I got out I had no strength at all. We stayed at my daughter's a few extra days before I felt well enough to head home to MO. It was an interesting coincidence that I went on Medicare on Oct. 1 and went into the hospital on Oct 2!! I was supposed to wire an addition to my daughter's house while there. That didn't happen!! Now that is the plan for New Years. Hopefully, I'll get that work done for them this time..... Deer season went well. We got 4 in all. I shot the last one with my 11 year old Grandson along. He helped me field dress it and drag it out. He thought it was all great..... Thanksgiving was good with all our kids and grands here as well as some neighbors and others. We had 28 at our house for Thanksgiving..... Other than that it has been pretty slow around here!!..... Merry Christmas!!

Jack Schneider: We took a trip to IA recently to visit **Linda's** relatives who have a farm in the Percival area. The farmland in that area, including theirs, has been completely destroyed by the summer floods. There is so much sand that it may not be reasonably possible to get the land farmable again especially with the threat of more flooding in 2012..... On a more positive note, our family members will all be here for Christmas and **Linda** and I have a trip to Hawaii planned for early 2012. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Bill Pauls: Just back from Jamaica, *MON!* Had a great time...especially at the "adult" beach in Montego Bay... NO PROBLEM!!! "Can I get another Pina Colada over here?" Did a fantastic whizz-bang sunset/romantic catamaran cruise & *ahhh YA MON* the Margaritas flowed like water, *MON...* on the "Red Dread" a beautiful catamaran out of the Montego Bay Sandals Port. I got a great picture of **Kris** with the Captain that she will obviously have to "live down." Built enuf sand castles with the G'kids to reach to the heavens, even some beach-chair caves, shuffle boarding, kayaking, paddle boating, mini-golf, exotic birds, tropical fish, & sand crabs etc., etc. Weather was paradise everyday & NO sunburn!!! Snorkeling VERY COOL & & the Jamaican Bobsled Team & restaurant & & did I mention the BAR! Also Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville & AIR Margaritaville... *WHOA MON!!* All-inclusive is the way to go *MON.* Can I get a Jamaican Delight over here please *MON?* *YA MON!!!* Did I mention Red Stripe Beer?..... I'm playing Santa for some preschoolers tomorrow for Columbia Parks & Recreation. Still runnin' marathons & headed to Callaway Gardens southwest of Atlanta/Pine Mtn, GA Jan. 29th with some ol' Bethany friends..... All for now, gotta get a run in before dark, *MON.....* If you have not been to Jamaica folks, I would recommend it highly..... ONE LOVE!!! The neighbors & my son were quite impressed upon my return with my Bob Marley hat, stuffed with tissue in the back & the fake dreads... Can we all say..... *YA MON!!!* Later, Willie-*MON* (or like they like to call me on "the Island" now..... *Willie BoHHHB*

Paula Price: 2011 has been an interesting ride at the Price house. The GOOD news is **Alan** is 100% cancer free and 100% donor marrow at two years post stem cell transplant. He was told by his bone marrow transplant doctors he should never have to worry about CLL ever again. That was music to his ears. The one thing we have learned for certain is the Stem Cell Transplant is a piece of cake. But, the fallout from

it is much to endure for some and **Alan** has been granted the gifts of just about everything. He stays the course for the ultimate goal of complete wellness. His doctors also tell him this will happen "eventually"..... We have enjoyed being with our granddaughter, **Jordin**, more this year. She was the cutest elf on stage at her preschool Christmas program and the most beautiful angel in the Christmas play at church. Our first Christmas cookie baking and decorating day was complete with **Jordin** and my niece and her three daughters from Topeka. Oh how the flour flew! We had a great time!.... I'm working a temporary position (3 days a week) in the facilities management office and more specifically for the property manager at Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph. Absolutely love it! My hope is in 2012 the position will become permanent. I also work one day a week in the office of Realty Executives NW MO just a few blocks from our house. That leaves Friday off and I spend 95% of those accompanying **Alan** to appointments at KU Medical in Kansas City. He has a few good friends who also help him get there when I'm working.... We hope this finds each of you well and enjoying retirement. God bless you at Christmas and may 2012 be full of happiness and caring!

Dennis Shirk: "Hey" to all. I have had a very good fall, much camping and riding. I am very lucky, many riding opportunities within easy driving distance. My wife is getting stuff ready for GRANDKIDS and Christmas. However, she does not do everything by herself. I will be taking Christmas beef to the processor on the 15th... Not quite ready for Christmas but, OH WELL... Wishing ALL a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR... See ya down the TRAIL.

Jerry McElhiney: I enjoy reading about all of you so will add my story as well. **Mary** and I have lived in AZ for thirteen plus years. We have decided to move back to Kansas City near our daughter **Julie**. In our advanced age we wanted to be near family and good health care facilities. It's good to be coming back home. **Mary** and I spent Sept. in Europe visiting Scotland, Wales, England, Paris, and Italy. Oh! that wine and food in Rome was good.... We hope to see many of you when we return. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Buck Burch: We are finally getting our routine down in Columbia and it is feeling more like home as time passes. **Carolyn** had surgery this summer; so we are also more familiar with the doctors and the medical facilities and their procedures. I participated in a Parkinson's research study through the University--results not compiled yet. Our travels have been more short-ranged: several trips to St. Louis observing and participating with our very active & sports oriented grandkids, and several jaunts to our old haunts around KCMO and Plattsburg. Future travel plans include a trip to Las Vegas in Feb. to celebrate my birthday.

Bob Ball: I was selected in Oct. as the Executive Director of the Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri (FWAM). We are a new, nonprofit organization supporting woodland landowners. Our mission is to: promote healthy, productive, and sustainable forests and trees. One of my "other duties as assigned" is to also provide administrative support to the Missouri Tree Farm Program. This assistance has been provided by the Missouri Forest Products Association for many years, but effective Jan. 1 this transitions over to the Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri. Tree Farm in Missouri is approaching 800 members while FWAM is 10% of that, but we're growing!..... Our target audience is the 359,000 woodland landowners in the state so we have a big goal ahead of us. Funding for FWAM is provided

through a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation, American Tree Farm System, Missouri Tree Farm Program, and the Missouri Forest Productions Association... Also, **Lenore** and I moved a few weeks ago into our "woodlands retreat" on the farm in Ohio. We are very proud of the project and look forward to entertaining our MO friends when visiting us at the farm.

Jack and Joyce Walker enjoyed Thanksgiving with his family in the Boise, ID area and some quality time with his great grandchildren, 7 year old **Ayden**, Eagle, ID and 4 year old twins, **Andrew** and **Nathan**, Vancouver, WA... Merry Christmas.

Jay Lingwall: Sorry this is late but it continues to be a busy year. **Leigh** and I just returned from visiting her son on Oahu and an old friend on Maui. That makes this cold weather harder to take. We did an Xterra 5K trail run on a beautiful ranch on Oahu. **Leigh** won her age group, her son placed second in his, and his girl friend won her age group. I did manage to finish in the top 25% of runners. Later in the week we watched some amazing runners at the finish of the Honolulu marathon. We have a new addition to the family...a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon...that we continue to modify for a long trail ride in UT and ID next summer with a Jeep Club. I think our children worry about us sometimes. After the holidays with family, we will go to FL until May. My cousin will be there this year just two miles from us. She and her husband fished Pine Island Sound for several years and I am looking forward to taking her out and discovering some of their good fishing spots... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pat Beneke: At the end of summer **Bill** and I spent over a month driving 6800 miles. The original excuse for the trip was my 45th high school class reunion in Spokane, WA. The planning started from that and just kind of grew. We decided to drive the car and tent camp as part of the trip. We wanted to go through several of the national parks on our trip and started out with the Black Hills of SD. We caught the last of biker's week and there were lots of Harley motorcycles driving around the roads. **Bill** and I pitched the tent and went sightseeing at both Mt Rushmore and Crazy Horse for a couple of days before heading to Glacier. When we got to Glacier, we entered the park on the east side but drove over to the west side before staying in a campground. It got pretty cool at night but was beautiful during the day. We spent a couple of days there and had to include a drive over the "going to the sun" road. While in Glacier I had gotten out of the car to take a picture. I had walked a pretty good distance and was still walking away from the car when **Bill** yelled "**Pat!**, Bear!" I turned around and there was a bear crossing the road walking right behind our car. I was wondering how to get back to the car in one piece. Luckily, the bear was focused on getting to bushes with the berries on them right over the edge of the road and I managed to get back to the car without incident. As soon as I got in the car, **Bill** asked if I had gotten a picture of the bear—that was his priority! And here I was only concerned about not being eaten by that bear! No, I did not get a picture so he stepped out and got a picture of the bear sitting in the bushes and eating. We left Glacier and drove to Spokane where we stayed in a motel so we could look somewhat presentable for the reunion. We had a nice time at the reunion and got to see and visit with several classmates..... We continued on to Portland, OR to visit my brother and sister-in-law. We stayed with them

several days and then we all packed up and moved down to a campground at Lake Lemolo not far from Crater Lake where we met up with my cousin and his wife. My brother rented an old small pontoon that had plastic lawn chairs for seats and a 10 hp outboard. The guys had no luck fishing. Good thing we did not depend on them for dinner. While we were all out on the boat, we discovered there was no reverse. There was also so much play in the throttle that he could hardly tell if he was in forward or neutral! We sure had fun laughing over the quality of that boat and motor. The next day we toured Crater Lake. We were all pleasantly surprised that my cousin turned out to be a very good camp cook and brought lots of grills along with salmon and cod that he caught in Alaska. What a treat.....

Bill and I continued south and wandered through northern CA to the Redwood National Forest. We stayed on this southern route and ended up right outside of San Francisco where we had a nice visit with my Aunt... **Bill** and I decided it was finally time to head back east. We spent a couple of nights in Yosemite National Park. The only campsites available were at the 8000' elevation level and it was getting pretty cool at night-low 30s.... We continued on east and ended up arriving in Las Vegas pretty late so decided to stay in a motel. We were surprised at how cheap the rates were. However, since it also had a casino, the total money we left there was a little more than just the room rate! Ha ha..... **Bill** and I decided to stay on a more southern route home and while in southern UT/AZ, we visited several parks in that area: Zion, North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Arches. The weather was changing so we did a mix of motel and camping. As we kept working our way east, it became easier to stay in motels to get an earlier start in the mornings. It was a heck of a trip but it is nice to be home... Now we are getting ready to celebrate the holidays with family. We wish you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, New Year.

Jess Epple (from OK): All is well at the J P Ranch near Muskogee, OK. Santa Claus completed an early delivery for **Jess** and dropped off two giant tire tanks! The best news is these tanks are already cut and ready to install. This past summer's drought caused us to make plans to install more livestock watering facilities plus another mile of livestock water line..... My grand-son, **James Hughes** and his wife, **Kari** of Columbia, MO decided to make **Phyllis & Jess** great-grandparents this Christmas. They added a 'caveat' to their announcement. We may have to wait until Jan. before we can hold that little bundle of joy. **Phyllis & Jess** plan to spend Christmas at K.C., but a quick trip to Columbia is not out of the question!..... The Missouri NRCS/SCS annual meeting for 2012 is scheduled to be in Columbia. **Phyllis & Jess** plan to attend and also plan to make time to spoil our great-grand child... All the cowhands at J P Ranch wish all of you retirees a Happy Holiday Season and remember, this next year, to support your local cattle producer. Beef, consumed in a responsible manner, is not only good --- it is good for you.

Fred Gilbert: From the Empire State to the Sho-Me State a very Merry Christmas. Not much news here. **Mary** is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Knee and hip replacement surgery is a sure fire conversation starter with peers at Christmas parties. This procedure seems to be as common as going to the dentist. Our Washington State daughter and husband are moving to AZ and our son is, for now, in Columbia, MO.

MONTANA

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Gordon Decker Report: The Nov. breakfast included the: **Johnsons, Smiths, Nadwornicks, Schledorns, Hunters, Batchelors, Rosses, Remers, Joe VanMullen, Ralph Bergentine, Bob Lund,** and **Gordon Decker.**

The Dec. breakfast included the: **Springs, Remers, Lohmillers, Hunters, Smiths, Schledorns, Rosses, Merlin Nelson, Bob Lund, Ron Batchelor,** and the **Deckers.**

The **Deckers** had a successful hunt on the family ranch in Eastern MT with grandkids. The hunting party included Gramma **Kathy** (cook & household general); Grampa **Gordon** & Grampa **John**; Dad **Ray** & Grankids, **Cameron, Tyler, Zach, Dylan,** and **Alex.** The kids bagged 5 Mule Deer bucks and 2 cow Elk, **Ray** also got a cow Elk, all in three days. They will have lots of meat in the freezer this year. Not bad, but they had a good guide!! and we had good tracking snow. Lucky for us, those animals still like the landscapes that had burned earlier this year.

I'm wondering since NRCsers are one big family if that makes us close enough of a relative that I can go on the **Decker** hunt next year.

Jim Johnson Report: **Joan** and I attended the SCS Breakfast on Nov. 2nd. There were 21 in attendance. **Ron & Elsie Batchelor** were among the attendees. About a week and a half after the breakfast, on Nov. 11th, **Elsie** passed away peacefully at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. She was in the hospital briefly before her death. We joined about 150 people (many with SCS ties) to attend the memorial service for **Elsie** at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman on Dec. 4th.

We traveled to Hot Springs Village, AR, to spend Thanksgiving with our daughter and her family, and spent a little time in Branson, MO on our way back to Bozeman.

Scott Hoag Report: **Scott & Nancy** finished building for Habitat for Humanity on Dec. 10 in Mandeville, LA. They headed west for Yuma, AZ where they will spend a couple of months or three in Country Roads RV Village. And then they're headed north to look for a home near their kids on Bainbridge Island. Habitat work has been good, even a blessing, but they're ready for not only R & R but time with a family that's growing up way too fast without them. They expect the year 2012 will see them not only in their new home but attending basketball and soccer games and even watching their daughter and youngest granddaughter on stage in a variety of theater productions.

So, anyone looking for a nearly-new condo? It's going on the market in Bozeman. Meanwhile, **Scott** continues to consult on a PL-566 rehab project.

Gooby Ranch Report: This year made last year look like a picnic. The bank repossessed **Mary Ann's** chainsaw and the crosscut saw is broken so she has had to gather limbs for winter. We have stacks of limbs as big as hay stacks around the house. The worst part about limbs is they burn awfully fast so **Mary Ann** spends a lot of time stoking the fire. On top of that, while she is out feeding I have to keep the fires going which causes me to miss a lot of the key parts of my favorite TV programs.

Mary Ann wanted me to help her plant the garden last spring. She made the trenches and had me spread the seeds. I started with the beet seeds and when they were used up I got the carrot seeds and seeded them. The beet and carrot seeds took up the whole garden and we had a bumper crop.

We have beets and carrots three meals a day. **Mary Ann** said, "You planted them, you eat them." To make it easier to eat them every meal, **Mary Ann** has some name cards she puts by the vegetable plate. Some days I eat cauliflower and brussels sprouts but they still taste like beets and carrots. **Mary Ann** said I can go fishing while she plants the garden next year.

When we walked down to the mail box there were two big tumble weeds sticking up in the alfalfa about a quarter of a mile from the road. We hadn't seen them before. Every day there were the weeds but it seemed they were in a little different spot. I added "pull the two weeds" to **Mary Ann's** to-do-list. The next day when she went down to get the mail, she went out to pull the weeds and two big bucks jumped up and ran. They were lying in the alfalfa and the only thing we were able to see was their antlers which looked like weeds. Now when we go down, we just see one weed. **Mary Ann** has the other weed in the freezer.

You would be proud of me, I know **Mary Ann** was. The other day while a ball game was on **Mary Ann** asked me to go to town and pick up some perishable food items while she finished cutting and wrapping the deer. Even though a ball game was on, I went. Of course the score was 46 to 3.

Mary Ann's Ramblin Rose drill team had a really good year. They got a standing ovation at every rodeo. But at the State meet the judge said 10 horses bucking around the arena might be a big hit at a rodeo but until they can get their horses to buck in unison, he couldn't give them any points.

Mary Ann's cow dog is getting too old to herd cows any more so she got a cow dog at the animal shelter. She checked and he came from a good line of cow dogs. After the dog was nine months old, **Mary Ann** started taking him out to train him on how to herd cows. She had a hard time getting him near the cows and every time a calf would look at him he would run back to the house. **Mary Ann** put a leash on him and everyday walked him through the cows but he never would act like he was willing to heel a cow. After about a month she thought the best way was to show him how to heel a cow. I was watching **Mary Ann** out the window with my scope. With the dog on the leash, **Mary Ann** crouched down and snuck up behind a cow and grabbed the cow's heel with her teeth so the dog could see what she wanted him to do. She didn't let go quick enough and the next thing I saw was **Mary Ann** flying 15 feet in the air. She did three back flips before she lit on the ground. The dog now has a new home with no cows.

Mary Ann checked with another animal shelter and they said they had a cow dog that was an excellent heeler. She went to the shelter and the lady took the dog out in the yard and jogged around and said to the dog, "Heel 'em." The dog heeled the lady immediately. **Mary Ann** brought the dog home and after walking the dog though the cows a few days she jogged toward the cows and said, "Heel 'em." The dog heeled **Mary Ann** right away. After five times her heel was getting a little sore. For the next three days the same thing happened. Then I hit on the idea that if **Mary Ann** wrapped herself in a cow hide and went out among the cows and

said "Heel 'em" the dog would eventually get the idea. **Mary Ann** went to the meat processing plant where we have our delicious healthy beef processed to get a cowhide. It should work. What do you think?

Mary Ann got the hide, and after working on it some, wrapped herself in the hide and with the leash on the dog headed out to the cows. The cows took one look at that strange creature coming at them and took off like a shot. In nothing flat they had run through two fences and were headed for the hills. In the meantime **Mary Ann** was running back to the house to get the pickup to try to cut them off. She was running as fast as she could but with the dog latched on her heel she wasn't making very good time.

NEBRASKA

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The Nov. meeting was opened by President **Paul Smith**. There were 27 members present.

Kay Westerman gave an update on **Lyle's** health condition, concerning the ribs he broke in Sept. **Steve Stover** reported that **Mike Stout** had a mini stroke two weeks ago, but is at home now and doing well. **Norm Kempf** reported that **Scott Argabright** is still having health problems. (Late Note: **Scott Argabright** passed away on December 26th and his funeral was held on December 30, 2011.) **Norm Helzer** reported that **Val Bohaty** is also having health problems.

Paul Smith reported that **Dave Ivey**, a retired technician who worked in Oakland but currently lived in Lincoln, died Nov. 2.

Pete Jensen and wife visited their granddaughter in Cincinnati, OH. She is on staff at the children's hospital there. **Paul Bartlett** and wife traveled to CA and then to Seattle, WA, to visit their son and family. **Gary Muckel** visited family in Kansas City then with friends traveled to Germany for an ammunition show. They visited with friends in Germany that they had made at previous ammunition shows. **Dave Langemeier** and wife visited their daughter and family in Austin, TX, and also went to Fredericksburg.

Norm Kempf just came back from an elk hunting trip. He did not get an elk but reported that there were six resident bears in the area. He also visited friends and family around the area. **Gus & Donna Dornbusch** visited son **David** and family in Dixon, IL. **David** was recently promoted to Assistant State Conservationist in IL. **Bill Hance** and wife flew to Salem, OR, for a wedding at a vineyard.

Norm Helzer and wife spent some time at their cabin in Valentine. **Joe Kuenning** went hunting at his brother's ranch in NE. **Virginia Adkins** visited her son and family in CO where they went to a pumpkin patch and then carved pumpkins. She also brought some wonderful needlework projects she had recently completed, getting ready for the needlework show next Oct.

Donna Dornbusch reported on an article in the Nov. 6, 2011, Journal Star noting the 65th wedding anniversary for **Pete & Doris Jensen**. A card had been sent for this special occasion. **Paul** thanked the callers for the work they have been doing

Donna Dornbusch and **Louie Buller** of the nominations committee reported that **Dave Langemeier** was nominated for President and **Gary Muckel** for Vice-President. The secretary/treasurer duties would be split among **JoAnne Thiele** for secretarial duties, **Chris Chapman** for treasurer duties, and **Donna Dornbusch** for attendance and roster duties.

The Dec. meeting was opened by President **Paul Smith**. There were 22 members present.

It was reported that **Lyle Westerman** is still recuperating from broken vertebra. **Dick Hogue** passed away on Dec. 18. He had retired in 1978 as the Assistant Director of the Midwest NTC. The gavel we use in our club was made by **Dick**.

Keith Sheets and wife, who recently underwent heart valve surgery, are leaving Monday to spend the winter in TX. **Jim Harder** and wife traveled to Oswego, which is southwest of Chicago, to visit their daughter and family. **Bill Hance** and wife traveled to Austin, TX, for a family Thanksgiving where 85 family members had gathered. **Pat McGrane** and wife went to Florida and also went on a Bahamas cruise.

Joe Kuenning went to New York City for Thanksgiving with his daughter and family. They went to the Macy's parade while there. One of his granddaughters, who is blind, just graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

JoAnne Thiele reported that **Cathy Pischel's** daughter-in-law is now working in Human Resources in the State Office. **Pat McGrane** reported that **Steve Chick** announced his retirement at the end of the year. **Lou Buller's** birthday is December 21st.

Paul Smith said that he had four grandsons, and that one of them, **Zach Ball**, is a football player at Pius and you can read about him in the newspaper. **Paul** also thanked **Dave Langemeier**, Vice-President, and **Donna Dornbusch**, Secretary-Treasurer, and all the callers for their help this year.

Installation of officers was as follows: President, **Dave Langemeier**, Vice-President, **Gary Muckel**, Treasurer, **Chris Chapman**, Secretary (sharing duties) **Donna Dornbusch** and **JoAnne Thiele**.

Dave Langemeier thanked **Paul** for serving as President this year. Meeting was adjourned.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Julian Drelich and wife, have a new grandchild and first granddaughter, **Molly Marie Rathman**, born August 27, 2011, to their daughter **Kimberly**, and husband **Justin Rathman**.

To those who know **Rich Duesterhaus**, his son, **Tom**, has been missing since June 17, 2011. **Tom's** personal property has been found on Virginia Beach. If you know anything that would help the family find **Tom**, contact **Rich** at rich@duesterhaus.net.

Bob Hartrick has retired from his part-time job with WNY Crop as a CAFO planner in July when his wife, **Sue**, retired so they could do things together around the house and take

care of his mother. **Bob & Sue** will be celebrating their 40th anniversary this year so they are planning a trip someplace special. They are looking forward to spending Christmas with their two grandsons, **Alex** and **Aiden**. **Bob** shot a 7 point buck with a bow, a doe with the rifle during hunting season, and one with a muzzleloader. **Bob** went fishing with **Al McGuffie** a couple of times and got their limit of lake trout. **Bob, Sue**, brother and sister-in-law went to FL in Nov. and stayed at The Villages and caught up with **John Rappa**, former ARC and played golf together and had a few beers.

Tyrone & Shirley Goddard are busy with their work but take time to enjoy grandchildren and travel. They traveled to NC for a family reunion in July and to Aruba for vacation in the fall. They were both invited to travel to Cuba in Dec. but **Tyrone** chose not to go but **Shirley** did go for about a week and has many stories of her experiences there. They look forward to Christmas with daughter and family in Boston.

Walt & Kathy Grajko became grandparents for the first time on Nov. 29, 2011, when grandson, **Henry Francis Schmidt**, was born to daughter **Elizabeth**. **Walt & Kathy** are getting ready for son **Michael's** wedding in June in the Thousand Islands of NY. **Kathy** volunteers back at her former school and **Walt** has his wood projects. They spend summers at the Islands. He plays golf with **Steve Machovec** and see **Joe & Debbie DeVecchio** up at The River. **Walt** had lunch with **Dave Angelo** and **Julius Toenniessen** recently.

Steve Machovec has been spending time with son, **Brett** and his wife **Kelly** in Bristow, VA, playing golf and visiting historical sites in the area including the White House and some of the local Civil War battle sites in and around the Manassas area. In June, son **Kyle & Sonia**, got married. That marks the final son getting married and since both **Matt** and **Kyle** are married to sisters, family get-togethers are pretty easy.

Steve still serves as the President of the Hatch/Bradley Brook Lakes Association. His experience as the Watershed Planning Staff leader and as part of the PL-566 program turns out to be an asset when dealing with some folks in the Association. There is a lot of concern over the natural gas drilling being proposed in the Marcellus shale area and how that may, or may not, impact the lake's water quality.

Steve's home was spared any significant damage by tropical storms Irene and Lee when close to 20 inches of rain were dumped on the area. He was evacuated for two days and went without power for five days but considers himself very lucky compared to the area's devastation. In Oct., made another trip to VA to see **Brett & Kelly** and toured Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson. The best part of the trip was when he was informed that he was going to be a grandpa again with their first child due in early May. **Steve** got a nice deer during bow season and followed that up with another buck during gun season. **Steve's** spare time is spent walking his dog, Smoke, and reading extensively with political history and the Civil War being the chosen books.

Bob & Sue Myers went to two working cattle ranches this year and had a ball. The Padlock Ranch outside Sheridan, WY, was 450,000 acres in size and ran a 4500 cow/calf operation. They helped move about 975 cows and calves. **Bob** had his right knee replaced in Feb. and his right shoulder replaced in Dec. Everyone says he is bionic but he can't

seem to even jump over a crack in the sidewalk but can still throw a bale of hay into the wheelbarrow.

For you old-timers, **Wendall Oaks**, has announced his retirement after nearly 40 years with SCS/NRCS. **Wendall** began his official career in 1972 in Canandaigua, NY as a student trainee doing emergency conservation planning after Hurricane Agnes devastated the northeast. His real experience with SCS and our partnership with local Conservation Districts began at age 15 under the Youth Conservation Core (YCC) with the Cortland County SWCD. During his career, he had the privilege of working for and with many dedicated conservationists in field offices, plant materials centers, state offices, ITC, and headquarters in NY, NM, CO, and DC. **Wendall & Barb** plan to stay in CO. His retirement contact information is wendall.oaks@gmail.com or 1022 Ashford Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526.

Harry & Sharon Potter just returned from Charlotte, NC where they volunteered at Operation Christmas Child (the shoebox project). Had an early Thanksgiving at oldest son's in IL with all of the family there from NH and NE. **Harry** is still involved as chairman of soil & water district directors and chairman of town planning board. They are blessed with good health and so continue to go as much as they can.

Frank Winkler keeps busy in retirement working part-time for Delaware County SWCD, Board President for our local electric cooperative, serves on several regional and statewide forestry boards, but most importantly is "PAPA" to four grandbabies (soon to be five). **Vickie** has retired and enjoys her free time and helping out frequently with the grandchildren. They love their home in the Catskills.

Mike Townsend and Jim Calhoun, recent retirees, are both working under the ACES program helping field office personnel doing training and using their vast experience in helping put conservation on the land.

Nancy Lee reports: Nancy & Mel are enjoying attending the Syracuse Orange basketball games and cheering them on as they enjoy being Number 1 in the NCAA basketball polls. **Nancy** recently attended "Cookie Day" in the State Office and got to see the new modular furniture that I had worked on the plan before my retirement almost five years ago. It looks great and if you are in Syracuse, stop in and see the new furniture and layout. **Erwin Rice** was also in attendance and said about the only things he and his wife do is go to doctor appointments but he also volunteers in the State Office, Soils Section. While enjoying the fellowship of our NRCS State Office employees, I also got to attend the retirement celebration of State Soil Scientist, **Steve Indrick**, who is retiring after 35 years on Dec. 31st. It was also announced that **Doug Gillette**, Resource Conservationist, and **Ted Trevail**, Soil Scientist, will be retiring at the end of December. **Astor Boozer**, current State Conservationist, has been named West Regional Conservationist, effective immediately so this was also a going away party for him.

NORTH DAKOTA

Robert "Bob" Bird, ARCSE Representative

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I've missed several newsletter deadlines lately. In June I was elected State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 2011-2012. That involved several trips including

San Antonio, TX; Boston, MA; Ogden, UT; and several meetings in-state. Our son, **David**, also was married in Grand Cayman.

We had our annual retiree reunion on Sept. 29, 2011, at the Bismarck Elks. We had 35 in attendance including: **Wes Wiedenmeyer** says he can now read his magazine subscriptions. **Dwight Tober** retired in Sept. and is going to a family reunion. **Bruce and Liz Clark**, **Bruce** retired in 1987. **Marc Vrem** retired in 1990. **Abner & Lorraine Lee**, retired in 1987 and worked the Hostfest in Minot the day before. **Everett & Patricia Johnson** celebrated their 60th anniversary, noted he has been retired almost as long as he worked, was on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC, with 60 other veterans, recently noted all the Big trucks on the road near New Town, ND, lived in Carson, ND for 30 years and 15 years in Bismarck, ND. **Orlin Lyng** retired in 1988, purchased a boxer dog certified as a care dog and visits care homes, had an auction sale, fell asleep fishing and the rod fell in the lake, noted that **Harold Jelleberg** has moved to Bloomington, MN, and noted that **Stuart Larson** lost his wife and is in assisted living in Grand Forks, ND.

Herb & Diane Mittelstedt have been married 52 years, noted that he, a German, was elected to head the Sons of Norway, has been in the hail adjusting business, can't find summer fallow anymore, a farmer put him on a tractor with 12 tires each tire higher than him, and he mows the Veterans Cemetery. **Dick Kukowski** has been working in the vineyard of his nephew at Beach. **Dick** said he was at a track meet recently and asked one of the athletes if he was a Pole Vault. The athlete said no, he was Norwegian and his name was not Walter. **Bob & Lynnel Boone** said they winter in SC and have 5 kids, 11 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. **Ron & Karen Sando** recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, play a lot of golf in ND in the summer & CA in the winter for 4-5 months, have 3 grandsons, and some Canadians got them playing lawn bowling.

Wes & Mary Ewine have been retired 8 years, like to travel with a son in MD then to SC then to Pomona Beach, FL. **Vi Person** originally from Woodworth, ND, celebrated her 61st anniversary in August, **Wally** is partly disabled, they have a son in Shakopee, MN, a daughter in FL whose husband was director of the 4th largest VA. **Vi** went to the Woodworth Parade and didn't know anybody, she taught in a rural school and did talk to two former students. **Larry Bushey** retired in 1978 and lives with two grandchildren that keep him busy. **Gary Puppe** retired in 2006, has been in almost all the offices in the state and goes to CA for the pecan harvest. **Arnie Schoepp** retired in 1988 and worked in Fairview, MT, and now there are 37 oil wells in his valley.

Myron & Cheryl Senechal thanked the veterans, does diamond willow cane making, have three grandchildren, the youngest just returned from China and lived in their house for about 7 months. **Myron** has been doing ancestral research in the Quebec/Arcadia area. **Erling "Punch" Podoll** and **Connie** retired in 1984, live in Aberdeen, SD, have 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, work around doctor appointments, hoping to get to Fredricksburg, TX, and the Nimitz Museum; he was an officer in charge of Land Craft tanks. **Gladys Demke** noted that **Russ Nelson** is in assisted living in Grand Forks; she lost a daughter-in-law recently (**Jim's** wife), was at a reunion in MN, 3 birthdays in 10 days, 2 trips to Minneapolis, and her son, **David**, is going back to school for his Masters.

Gary & Bev Tibke finished his career in Manhattan, KS, as a wind control specialist. His career went from Washburn, ND, to WY to MT to Lincoln, NE, to Manhattan, KS. Also noted at the reunion were those we lost in the last year (See "In Memoriam") and that **Senior Conservationist Mina & Otto Victor** celebrated their 70th anniversary, **Otto** had his 99th birthday and they have moved to Fargo, ND. The new State Conservationist in ND, **Mary Podoll**, also addressed the group regarding her background and where the NRCS is today. She has 24 years of NRCS experience, graduate of Oklahoma State University with a BS in agronomy and soils. She is formerly Director of the East National Technology Support Center in Greensboro, NC. She met her husband **Brad** in SD, worked in SD, raised her kids in OK., worked in Guam, and was an AC in NM. She has 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, *ARCSE Representative*
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On Oct. 28, 2011, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Hometown Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK. Forty-eight people were in attendance. They were: **Don & Darlene Bartolina, Dale Bell, Otis Bennett, Bob Bumgarner, Charles & Carolyn Cail, Larry Caldwell, Steve Chessmore, Duane Crider, Bob & Betty Day, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred & Gayle Fortney, Randy Freeland, Jim & Roberta Frie, Lloyd Garrison, Chuck Grimes, David Haggard, Jim & Mollye Henley, Odos & Dianne Henson, Sandra & Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Otho LaMar, Paul May, Jim McCampbell, Forrest & Louise McClung, Lowell & Minnie McMasters, Hadley Meinders, Gordon & Minnie Carol Moebius, Nelson & Mary Mueller, Glen & Eunice Mullen, John & Joy Pethers, Dan Runnels, Keith & Phyllis Vaughan, and Loren Zweiacher.**

Sandra Hough said she mailed 340 notices about our meeting and asked members to help her with lost addresses for those we no longer seem to be able to reach. The names of those missing will be listed on our Oklahoma website at: <http://www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/>

Sandra read a note from the son of **Billie Hutcheson**, Chelsea, advising that his father died in 2005 and his mother, **Kathryn** died in 2010. **Carolyn Tucker**, retired district secretary at Hinton, sent an email advising she would not be in attendance due to recent back surgery but wants to be kept on the mailing list. **Betty Todd** sent dues with a note that she will try to come to meetings when she can and is always glad to get a meeting notice. **Nick Lambeth** had surgery in Jan. and again in Aug. on his ankle. He has been off his feet for 10 weeks and was just released so he can start walking. He lost two brothers and his wife **Doris** lost a sister in recent months to cancer.

Nine new retirees have been added to our retiree list: **Wilma Fraley**, Office Clerk @ Claremore TSO for 12 yrs., 6/1/11; **Ken Swift**, DC @ Idabel, 7/1/11; **Becka Redding**, Secretary to State Conservationist, 8/31/11; **Greg Kindell**, RC&D Coordinator, Tulsa, 9/30/11; **Carl Smith**, RC&D Coordinator, Tulsa, 9/30/11; **Angela Williams**, RC&D Coordinator, Pauls Valley, 9/30/11; **Larry Wright**, RC&D Coordinator, Cordell, 9/30/11; **Joni Mustain**, Program Assistant in Programs,

Stillwater, 9/30/11; and **Terri Daniel**, Visual Information Specialist, Stillwater, 9/30/11.

"First Time Attendees" were asked to stand and introduce themselves: **Paul May**, retired as DC at Durant. He indicated he plans to travel, do church work, part-time tax return work, and just enjoy the family and especially grandkids. **Loren Zweiacher** retired as DC at Pawnee but now lives in Stillwater and attends many OSU sporting events. **Larry Caldwell** retired in 2009 but continues to work part time for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on projects involving watershed dams. He has also been actively involved in renovation work at his church. He and **Carolyn** really enjoy their grandkids (2.9, 4.2, and .1 years old) who live in Stillwater and Owasso. The group welcomed the first timers and encouraged them to come back. Others in attendance then introduced themselves.

Nelson Mueller reported his daughter was married in Sept. and his son joined the Job Corps. **Nelson** spent most of the summer in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital with heart valve surgeries and suffered a stroke. He is recovering quite well with physical therapy.

It was reported that **Glen Miller**, retired State Geologist, Stillwater, is battling a brain tumor. A local hospice group has been called in to help with his needs. **Charlie Cail** has recently spent time with **Glen** taking him to coffee with other retirees and to other functions around Stillwater. **Glen** was given a special invite to attend our meeting but felt his health just wouldn't allow it. An email was sent from the State NRCS Office indicating **Walter Lamar**, retired District Conservationist from Fairview, has been fighting cancer for some time. Those in attendance were encouraged to send him a card or go by for a visit if possible.

Fred Fortney read a list of recent retiree deaths: **Lee Hayden**, 5/10/11, Accounting Technician in State Office, retired in 1988; **Giles (Dee) Passmore**, 7/31/11, Soil Conservationist @ Sayre FO, retired 1/1/10; **Alfred Thompson**, 8/4/11, Soil Conservation Technician @ Wagoner FO, retired 7/3/09; **John Chelf**, 9/11, DC @ Wewoka FO in 1980's; **Michelle Nichols**, daughter of **Ray & Donna Riley**, died in car accident 8/2/11. **Ray** worked in watersheds & lives in Stillwater. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred** offered a prayer.

Randy Freeland presented a slide show of slides he had borrowed from the State Office information section. He noted the most difficult thing to find these days is a "working" slide projector. A Kodak Carousel Slide Projector is almost an antique. The slides were of various employees over the years and some of the conservation projects they had worked on or completed. Many were able to identify the work sites shown in the pictures.

Don Bartolina provided a report for the Nominating Committee for a new slate of officers to be elected at this meeting. They were: **Dan Runnels**, President; **Charley Cail**, Vice-President; **Sandra Hough**, Secretary-Treasurer. The group unanimously voted to accept these individuals as officers for the coming year to lead our Oklahoma Retirees Group.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2012, at Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative
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Rose Marie Updegraff writes that she and **Dale** took a trip to New England the end of Sept. They traveled to Newport, RI; visited a friend in NH; and then went to Bar Harbor, ME and Acadia National Park. She said it rained the whole time they were in Bar Harbor – the sun never came out! In Oct., they went to Charlottesville, VA. One of **Dale's** classmates invited anyone in the class that wanted to come for a visit with him and his wife in Charlottesville. It was a great three days, with a hayride and stories around a bonfire. He has a 500-acre farm with 300 head of Angus cattle and 283 calves. **Rosie** said they all stayed at his house -- all 13 of us! She said they enjoyed sightseeing and visited Monticello and the University of Virginia. After returning from VA, **Rosie** and her daughter spent some time in New York City. They enjoyed a Broadway show, tried some new restaurants and enjoyed sightseeing in beautiful Fall weather. The end of Oct., they spent 17 days in Hilton Head. They stopped in Camden, SC on the way down and had lunch with **Benny Martin** and his lady friend. It was good to catch up with **Benny**. They had a relaxing time riding bikes on the beach at Hilton Head and doing lots of good eating.

Nevin & Judy Ulery enjoyed a brief escape to OH in Nov. They visited Hocking Hills State Park and surrounding areas where they observed large rock caves, waterfalls, the Leo petroglyphs, Serpent Mound and other Indian burial mounds near Chillicothe. They also toured the Bob Evans homestead near Rio Grande, OH and some Amish communities in southeastern OH. All this and only 2-3 hours from home. The **Ulerys** will spend Christmas in PA with their daughter **Beth** from Austin, TX. Then they will fly to Seattle, WA to visit daughter **Amy** and her family in Oak Harbor, WA. **Nevin & Judy** are also enjoying their two great grandchildren, **Tyler** (4) and **Ben** (1) as they watch them 3 days each week. Tuesdays are reserved for spending the day with **Judy's** 96-year old mother.

Short report from **Ed Brzostek** that he has moved and his new address is 31 Cromwell Drive, Ocean View, DE 19970. His e-mail is ejbrz@yahoo.com. **Ed** adds that he is still working with NRCS as an ACES employee.

The Bedford County District Board has appointed **John Akers** to the Bedford County Outdoor Education Committee. It is made up of representatives from the 5 school districts, sports groups, environmental groups and conservation agencies to promote environmental education in the schools and the general public. The Committee sponsored an environmental education fair at the Everett High School in early November for the school children and public. **Ann & John** took a Saturday excursion on a Western Maryland passenger train pulled by a steam locomotive. The train left the old Western Maryland Passenger station in Cumberland, MD on a Saturday morning and went up to Frostburg, MD. They got to see the turntable turn the steam locomotive around to head back to Cumberland. They had a couple of hours, so they walked to downtown Frostburg and had lunch. It was an interesting train ride with a lot of mountain scenery. **John** also attended the fall meeting of the PA Farmland Preservation Association at Powermill Preserve in Westmoreland County in Oct. Although he has not been doing any work with the Bureau of Farmland Preservation, he is still interested in the Preservation program.

Carl Dupoldt is still working with Green Building Solutions and Supplies. The web site is www.greenbuildings.com. He is on the Board of the Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association and the Darby Creek Valley Association. The web sites are www.crcwatersheds.org and www.dcv.org. He remains a member of the Delaware County Chapter of the PA Society of Professional Engineers. He is participating in a lot of webinars (online workshops and conferences). This averages about 5 per week.

Bill & Mary Ann Bowers enjoyed the great weather at many of the Penn State football games this fall. The atmosphere at the Nebraska game was different. When both teams, returning players, coaches, and referees met at mid-field and knelt in prayer before the game, the stadium was silent. It was a very emotional moment. After the game the fans gave both teams a standing ovation and the "We are – Penn State" cheer broke out. I cannot remember that ever happening after the game was over. Things at Penn State will never be the same. The whole family was at our house for Thanksgiving and it was a great "family" time. The weather was so good that the next day the guys (**Bill, Don, Ryan, Marc, and Ben**) played golf while the ladies (**Mary Ann, Susan, Emily, Amy, and Susan**) went shopping. **Bill** put the bird feeders up a week before Thanksgiving and something tore them down so he moved one of his motion activated cameras to "observe" the area. Sure enough, a bear was back to get a free bird seed meal and scratched the railing on the back deck, and we have pictures to prove it! We hope he has headed for Perry County.

Fred & Carol Bubb enjoyed a cruise down the Danube River in October. Shore excursions included Passau and Melk, Germany; Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Budapest, Hungary. Highlight of the trip was an evening concert in a Vienna castle of Mozart and Strauss music by the Vienna Resident Orchestra.

Alan Wood (State Project Engineer, SO) was in Ethiopia with Engineering Ministries International in Oct. His team of engineers and architects was designing a community center and a coffee plantation near a small village in southwest Ethiopia. Ironically, at the same time his wife, **Judy**, was in another part of the country teaching hygiene for schools with Lifewater International.

Ed Helmey sent thanks for the annual meeting photo. **Ed** says it has been 30 year since he left PA and he could hardly recognize people. He enlarged the photos enough to read name tags so he could see who was who. **Ed** adds that if he sent his photo, we probably would not recognize him either.

Don McCandless has a tale of woe about the beginning of this year's deer hunt. The day started rainy – didn't see any deer all day long until just before dark a big buck walks out. Some kind of problem – deer just get tired of being used for target practice and strolls back into the woods. Next day he sees several fawns but no buck. Then there is something about his neighbor got a 8 point buck and saw a couple others that same day. Come on, **Don**, was your luck (or aim) really that bad?

Writing this from Alaska, says **Don Lindsey**, "We don't usually visit **Scott** & family in the winter but were inspired to come now. They have snow but its not real cold. Our only other news is that **Shirley** fell in Oct. and knocked out her 4

front teeth. She had a fracture on each side of her nose as well. She is doing fine and never really had much pain, but the teeth will involve extensive dental work.

The Southeastern PA Retirees met for lunch at Roger's Bistro in West Chester on Nov. 19th. Those present were : **Helen Brossman, Jim & Maria Cropper, Bob & Nancy Escherman, Jean Francis, Carolyn Gehlen, Tom Iivari, Ann Magee, Joe & Janice McDonough, Frank & Jane Resides, John Wenderoth, and Joe Zurlo**. As usual, a good time was had with lots of eating, drinking and talking, not necessarily in that order. It was a beautiful day here in Chester County, with sunshine and about 60 degrees. A highlight was the showing of the 1992 Northeast NTC Video. Some of the pictures dated to the late 1980s. Most of those present, were featured in non-speaking roles, but it was fun to see what we looked like and to remember what we were doing about 20 years ago! The video, which was to promote the services of the NTC, was sent to **Mercedes** by someone in Vermont, and she sent it to me. They were probably "house cleaning" the office up there and getting rid of some things they didn't need. I don't know how much use it got in the states, but we did enjoyed it. I hope that next year even more people will attend our November meeting..

Last, but most inspiring is this message from **Willie Ruffin**, Senior USDA Advisor, COP, Sayed Abad, Afghanistan: "Just a quick note to let you all know that I am still here in Afghanistan. I must apologize for not making it to the last annual meeting back in Sept., but because of a number of things that came up, the flooding problem, a wedding out in WI, etc., the time just ran out. I really enjoyed the vacation down time though. I will be completing my 2nd year around April 6, 2012, but I have been thinking about extending for a 3rd year and completing this ordeal around early May of 2013. It's rough and challenging, but for an old Vietnam Vet (67), I feel that I can still hang in there with these young bucks (smile). I feel that we are beginning to make some real progress with the farmers here where I am located, and it mainly involves trying to get them to understand that all of this is about hard work in trying to feed and educate their families. The diet for an average Afghan is just bread daily; sometimes with beans and rice, and maybe meat 2-3 times a month. Education wise, approximately 85% of the population are illiterate. I share with them many times regarding my experience growing up in AR during the late 40's, 50's and 60's; that we didn't have lots of money back then, but we never thought that we were poor either; that you pray and act, not just pray. Anyway, I am scheduled to be home with the family for the Christmas Holidays. I will be home from Dec. 19th - Jan. 7th. May I ask that you all continue to keep us in your prayers, especially during this coming Holiday Season. I wish all of you a very special Happy Holiday Season from Big Sky Afghanistan.

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Hugh Caldwell reports that he and **Patsy** spent a week in the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge area in Nov. They visited Cades Cove, saw a bear, several deer, and turkeys and enjoyed viewing God's creation and creatures. The mountain streams are very refreshing. They had a very relaxing week with friends and family. Now it's back to the normal duties

of being grandparent school delivery and pickup service and doing volunteer work with several organizations in addition to church. **Patsy** is substitute teaching a couple a days of week and enjoys doing that. Their hope is that everyone has a Blessed Christmas and 2012 is good to all.

I have had a wonderful Dec. I traveled to Ann Arbor, MI to see my daughter **Michelle** and my grandchildren **Zoe** and **Max**. I was able to see **Zoe** (9 years old) sing in the Concordia College Christmas program. Even though it was early in Dec., we celebrated birthdays and Christmas together. On Dec. 23rd and 24th my son **Troy** and his wife **Joely** from Atlanta visited me in Charleston and we celebrated Christmas again. Then on Christmas Day, I flew to Dallas, TX where I am currently visiting my son **Todd**, his wife **Yvonne** and my grandchildren **Bennett** (3) and **Katelyn** (9 months). Folks—it just does not get any better than this!!!! I hope all of you have had as good a Christmas and have a very Happy New Year.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

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

The following items are excerpts from the North Texas SCS/NRCS Alumni News courtesy of **Jim Rickman** and **Arnold King**.

Twenty two members were present for the Oct. 14, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakely, Elaine Davis, Dorthy Green, Barbara Gillum, Joyce Petty, Don Kapalka, Joe Nichols, Dennis & Kathy Gaster, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Dennis Erinakes, Jim & Jere Rickman, Bernelle Baxley, Don & Berniece Newman, Bonnie McKee, and Ken & Judy Twitty**. Guests were **Julia & Mishka Ann Parr** (granddaughter & great-granddaughter of the **Twitty's**).

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

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was voted into office by a unanimous vote of all members. Our officers for 2012 are: President: **Dave Drennan**; 1st Vice President: **Dennis Gaster**; 2nd Vice President: **Don Newman**; Secretary-Treasurer: **Elaine Davis**; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: **Barbara Gillum**; Member Relations Leader (Caller Groups): **Maxine Owen**; Member Relations Leader (Cards-Memorials): **Del Rockenbaugh**; Newsletter Editor: **Jim Rickman**; Assistant Newsletter Editor: **Phil Delucchi**; and Newsletter Distributor: **Don Kapalka**. Our new officers for 2012 will be installed at our Dec. meeting. Thank you to all who have worked to make our Alumni Club a success.

Dorthy Green is still collecting material for our servicemen and just mailed 2 boxes. **Elaine Davis** had 49 relatives at her home for a family reunion.

David Stockbridge reported on **Don Shanklin**. **Don** had chest pains and was taking a stress test when his chest tightened up, so they stopped the test. **Don** was checked for vein and artery blockage, and although they found heart blockage, his heart had already done its own by-pass and he is fine, except for needing to increase his aerobic exercise. **Dave** also reported on **Marcia Delucchi**, who had back

surgery and is being attended to by **Phil**. **Dave** ran in a 5K run sponsored by a brewery and he came in 3rd and I believe he was able to drive home.

Dennis Erinakes just completed a physical and received a clean bill of health. However, **Dennis** had not been satisfied with the explanations received on his prescription drugs. BCBS with MEDCO has a pharmacist that is easily accessed and **Dennis** found that to be very helpful. He recommends this source of pharmaceutical information.

Bonnie McKee was pleased to report the birth of her 10th great grandson, and the fact that she got to hold him. **Bernelle Baxley** went to the Olympic training center and had a great trip. **Barbara Gillum** has a niece visiting her, who got tickets to the Rangers vs. Tigers American League baseball playoff game 6.

Berniece Newman reported all was quiet at their home. **Maxine Owen** said she was doing well, and their grandkids were also doing well in sports. **Barb & Dave Stockbridge** are going to the NE this Wednesday visiting relatives and will return home the first part of Nov. **Kathy Gaster** said soccer games, etc. were keeping them busy.

Ken Twitty just had cataract surgery and is still healing. His wife, **Judy** is in a brace with a broken back. **Judy Twitty** reported that she was in the hospital 4 days mainly due to dehydration. She has back surgery scheduled in Nov. **Jere Rickman** had talked with **Harland Dietz** who told her **Anita** went in for surgery but her heart rate was excessive, so they could not perform the surgery. **Jere** also mentioned a couple of touchdowns scored by her grandson.

Dennis Gaster is going to a scout camp to fish tomorrow with a group of scouts. He is also contemplating camping in Big Bend State Park. **Bernie Owen** has been busy with NARFE, and has attended several meetings, one in LA. Taxes have been keeping him busy. The H & R Block classes are confusing since several issues are still not decided. **Don Newman** watched his 8th grade grandson who plays first base and pitches do a great job of pitching.

Joe Nichols returned from a funeral on **Jenny's** side of the family and is planning a trip. **Don Kapalka** said he had joined the 21st century, as he had purchased a state of the art TV. It is 55 inches, high definition, and 3D. It is great watching the Rangers on it, as he can now actually tell what is going on. The TV resulted in a delay of painting his house.

Dave Drennan did his annual sport trip with his son. They went to Fenway Park to a game, Providence, RI to see a field hockey match, saw UConn play Iowa State in football, Boston College play Duke, and a pro game between the Patriots & Chargers. Along the way they ate clam chowder in the oldest restaurant in the US. He also has been enjoying watching his grandkids play sports, and tomorrow will attend his high school 50th class reunion.

Berniece Newman wrote; "**Don's** mother is 103 years young today, Nov. 8. Happy birthday **Hazel**, my mother-in-law for 58 years!!!! Hope her good genes are passed on to other members of her wonderful family! Thanks. **Marion Porter** sent the following note to add to **Hazel's** birthday wishes, "Please extend my congratulations to **Hazel Newman** on her 103rd birthday. Also thank her again for her donation of

many of her handmade quilts to our Reunion raffles to help make them successful. She really helped us out.”

This good news came in from the **Williams’** family: “God our Father is so good and hears our prayers and is faithful to answer. We are so thankful for all of you. Just met with the doctors at the hospital. The biopsy did not show any cancer in the mass. The mass is a bacterial infection. They will begin a treatment of antibiotics as soon as they can get with the infectious disease doctor. This is not an easy infection to deal with but it is (they think) one that can be controlled. (It is in the TB family but not contagious, and not TB). He will have to be checked regularly by the oncologist to be sure the cancer is in remission. They do not want to give him more chemo. He will be in the hospital for a few more days. He is a long way from recovery. But he will recover! God has been so good to carry us all this time and hear all the prayers. We are so grateful to all of you for your love and prayers.” **DeWayne, Freddie & Jeff.**

David Moffitt wrote on Oct. 25th, 2011. “We’re doing well, just extremely busy. I’m still working half time for a division of Texas A&M and **Maryke** still baby-sits our youngest grand daughter. Returned last Friday night from a week in CO. By and large it was better weather there than you all had here in North TX while we were gone. The colors were starting to fade, particularly the reds, but we still have some bright yellows in the Aspens up about 7000 feet. Middle of Nov. **Maryke** and I are heading to Atlanta to the National Missionary Conference - an annual gathering where mission organizations from around the world get together to share ideas, enlist recruits, and basically tell their stories. We’ve never been, but last year they had 10,000 show up. We’re volunteers with Pioneer Bible Translators, headquartered in Duncanville. We have 10 -12 from our church studying to be ministers/missionaries, and they will be there as well. Attended a cruise show last month and wound up winning free nights in Puerto Rico. We were considering a Caribbean cruise anyway, so we’ll cruise out of San Juan early next year and enjoy the free nights in PR as well. **David**

From **Phil Delucchi**: **Marcia** was hit by a truck near the Granbury Square Nov. 5th, one month to the day after having back surgery. Fortunately, besides a bruised right arm, she had cracked bones in her toe and fibula. Her back was in the brace and appears to be okay. She will be in a wheelchair for four to six weeks. **Chris** will be coming to Granbury Thanksgiving weekend in lieu of them going to DC.

Twenty seven members were present for the Nov. 18, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine & Bill Ray Davis, Richard Heizer, Dorothy Green, Barbara Gillum, Joyce Petty, Morris Lobrecht, Joe Nichols, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Dennis Erinakes, Jim & Jere Rickman, Bernelle Baxley, Don Newman, Bonnie McKee, Harland Dietz, Wes Fuchs, Patsy Hocker, Dave Drennan, Anita Plummer, Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh, and Nina Puckett.** We had one guest, **Sara Heizer.**

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. Club business included a treasurer’s report from **Elaine Davis.** One hundred dollars was approved for door prizes for our Christmas Party, to be purchased by Jere Rickman. Two hundred dollars was approved for our annual donation to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. We will take up an offering at the December meeting, and if the collection is less than \$200 we will make up the difference with club funds.

There were two excellent presentations on health benefits, by **Kristine Scott** – GEHA and **Anita Newby** – BCBS. One recommendation they both made was that a retired government employee did not need to take out policies such as AARP. As government retirees we already have a great choice of plans, and with Medicare we do not need to take out a Medicare part D (prescription) Plan. Both plans are offering a dental package that anyone considering substantial dental work should look into.

Dorothy Green is still collecting material for our servicemen and would appreciate whatever you can donate. In particular they need socks. **Dennis Erinakes** reported that goose & duck season is now open and granddaughter **Danielle** got 3 ducks with 3 shots. **Harland Dietz** said that **Anita’s** back surgery was successful. She is still not pain free, but much improved.

Don Newman reported that **Carl Hunter** called him on the 16th just to check in and see how everyone was doing. He & **Willa** are doing fine. He spends a lot of time going to fishing tournaments. He said he usually comes in the top three and wins enough money to cover expenses.

This email was sent in by **Don Holley**: “It is always a pleasure to receive the newsletter and catch up on happenings of old friends and former co-workers. We just completed a bus tour thru New England. Had a wonderful trip seeing parts of the USA that we had not seen before. Our whale watching trip in Kennebunkport, ME was a chance of a lifetime. We saw 20 to 30 right whales (and these are on the endangered species list). Also saw (father) **President Bush** as he was departing the dock as we were departing our boat. **Nita’s** long-time best friend (and a person that many of the SCSers will remember) **Charna (Logan) Gray** and her husband, **John**, went on the trip with us. I had cataracts removed from both eyes this year and have recovered completely.

“Keep up the good work and tell everyone “hi” for us. We invite all to call or stop by and see us when in the Eureka Springs area. **Don Holley**, 33 LaQuinta Loop, Holiday Island, AR 72631.”

This email was from **Mable Arfman**: “Hello to all my SCS friends: I have been meaning to get to the meetings, but the date gets away from me before I remember. I will make it one of these days. I am now a Great-Great grandmother - that makes me the grandmother of a grandmother - WOW! Surely I can’t be THAT old! I send Best wishes to all of you,” **Mable Arfman.**

Marcia Delucchi was in a car wreck just after surgery. She is now out of a wheel chair as of the 7th, but has a boot on her foot. She is thankful to be upright and able to hobble through the holidays. **Jim Brasfield** wrote: “After several months of work inside we moved into our house on April 1, 2011. We lost several very large trees to storms, but no damage to the house. On Aug. 29 I had a partial knee replacement. The recovery only took a short time. On Dec. 21 we are flying to Sydney, Australia to catch a cruise ship. It will be for sixteen days, and we will end up in Singapore. The cruise is with Holland American. Hope everything is going well for you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Your friend”, **Jim Brasfield**

Maxine & Bernie Owen are proud to announce their granddaughter, **Nicole Owen**, has earned and accepted a full ride scholarship to Angelina College, a strong D-1 Junior College in Lufkin, TX. **Nicki** is currently a senior pitcher for

Mansfield-Summit High School. She has plans to become a physical therapist and is quite excited to begin her education at Angelina Junior College.

The following is a report on **Jeff Williams** from **DeWayne & Freddie**: The doctor started **Jeff** on some new antibiotics today. It will take a while to see if they are going to work...but we are leaving it in God's hand to direct the doctors - so we are feeling positive. He's in good hands. He will have a PET scan in two weeks to check on the cancer. Thanks for your faithfulness in prayer for all of us.

We are saddened to pass on the news that **Dave Stockbridge's** sister, **Barbara Stockbridge**, died Dec. 4th, 2011. She had been ill with cancer for some time. The family was together in NY in June and more recently in Nov. for **Barbara's** 80th birthday. There will be no service at this time but there will be a Celebration of Life when the family can all get to NY - probably in June 2012.

Glen Black wrote: "Wanted to report and send a copy of the obituary for **Ernest Shillingburg** who passed away this past Saturday – December 3, 2011. **Enedina Salinas**, NRCS, Temple, TX forwarded the sad news regarding the death of **J. B. Brisbin**, retired Area Clerk in Victoria, TX. (See IN MEMORIAM.)

VIRGINIA

(Vacant), ARCSE Representative

Rachel Hollins sent this message: While looking for a replacement, I will still try to keep you informed via e-mail. I still need to send a note to those without e-mail. That would have happened this past week; however I fell down the back porch steps and broke an elbow bone along with getting numerous bruises along my left side.

That sure cut into my Christmas shopping and celebrating. Plus **George** is my driver for a while. Please pray for me because he pays more attention to what is happening in the fields and at houses than to looking where he is going. Usually I do all of the driving when we travel together.

I'm sure some of you have had this experience, but it is really hard to type with one hand,

I do hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and the best 2012 possible.

WASHINGTON

Jerry Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

Attending recent retiree luncheons at the Spokane Wolf Lodge Steakhouse were **Ken Kaul**, **Larry Edmonds**, **Harry Riehle**, **Jud Melton**, **Hans Krauss**, **Gary Johnson**, **Lennie Husa**, **Ralph Schmidt**, **Carl Vennes**, **Bob Olson**, **Phil Schauble**, and **Jerry Richard**. **Louis Kehne** is back home and has recovered from his earlier broken hip and all the physical therapy which to **Lu** was sometimes like 'therapytorture' and is doing well at home. **Lu** says "now days, everyday may not always be a picnic, but almost". His son **Jay**, an Omak retired conservationist, fisherman, and hunter was appointed in Dec. by Gov. Chris Gregoire to a position on the nine member Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Quoting the Spokesman Review "**Kehne**

likely falls in the category of wolf advocate, considering he's the Okanogan outreach coordinator for the Conservation Northwest, but he has wide-ranging credentials. During his 31 year career with the NRCS he worked with farmers and ranchers, worked with conservation easements involving counties as well as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He's a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk and Mule Deer foundations. Fish and Wildlife commissioners are appointed by the governor to six-year terms." Many of our luncheon group are avid fishermen, outdoorsmen and hunters and extend congratulations to Jay's appointment.

Ken Kaul and **Jerry Richard** have been enjoying some great northwest fishing, **Ken** fishing salmon and steelhead in the Hells Canyon area and at Vantage for the Chinook salmon. **Jerry** has been fishing on the Columbia River and at Priest Lake. We were sad to hear that **Senior Conservationist Ed Nurmi** had passed away (see Memoriam Nov – Dec, 2011). **Ed** was an active member of our group in Spokane for many years and could best us all with his stories and adventures of growing-up in the Silver Valley of ID and his days as a student at the University of Idaho. We all miss you **Ed**.

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Warren & Barb Lee won't be going to AZ for the winter. **Barb** has arthritis in her left wrist that is causing her significant pain and must have surgery sooner rather than later. Thus with two months in a cast followed by two months of therapy, spring will have arrived in VA by the time she is all healed up and fully functioning.

John Moore sends; "**Chris & I** have a new grandson, **Cooper James Moore**, son of **David & Jill Moore**. We are happy they live close by in Woodbridge, VA. I just finished my first stint teaching "Engineering Geology", a course I developed for the Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering Dept. at George Mason University. It is part of a new MS degree program for civil engineers. I enjoyed every minute of it. We spend at least 4 months a year at our getaway camp in VT. The last 2 summers I have been mapping glacial moraines in northern VT and NH. This particular sequence has gone unrecognized by state surveys, probably because it is off the radar of topo maps, and deep in the puckerbrush. Hope to get a paper published. Found a nice CJ-5 1974 Jeep with less than 10K miles on it to bum around in while mapping. Went to Haiti twice last year with a small group of Engineers Without Borders to do agricultural water supply development work. Still very active in raising funds for 4 children missions in Guatemala and El Salvador. I try to get down there once a year."

Blanche Peterson had major spine surgery on Nov. 9th. Three vertebrae had to be put back in place and the disks between them repaired. Her recovery should take 4 months and she won't be driving for some time. **John** is coping.

Two more NHQ friends are retiring at the end of 2011. National Historian **Doug Helms** and National Geologist **Jerry Bernard** will both retire on Dec. 31st. They have both contributed greatly to conservation in the US. The very best **Doug & Jerry**. Hope you will join in some of our retiree activities and luncheons.

WISCONSIN

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

The dates and locations for the SCS/NRCS Retiree's Luncheons in Wisconsin in 2012 are:

- Feb. 9, 12:00 pm - Grandma Mary's Cafe, Arena, WI
April, 12, 12:00 pm - Fitzgeralds Restaurant, Middleton, WI
June 14, 12:00 pm - Christiano's Pizza and Eatery, Green Lake, WI
Aug. 9, 12:00 pm - Rhinelander Cafe and Pub, Rhinelander, WI
Oct. 11, 12:00 pm - River Jack's @Midway Hotel, LaCrosse, WI

For information contact **Jim Enlow** at ljenlow@att.net.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

New addresses:

- Paul Vainio**, 3 Lowery Ct., Edgewood, NM 87015
Terry & Joe Haugh, 21085 Cardinal Pond Terrace, Apt. 205, Ashburn, VA 20147
Kent Ververs, 2380 Opal Ct., Loveland CO 80537

New email address:

Rex Tracy - rexorrtracy@gmail.com

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

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

Their names and home states are:

Dale McClaskey, KS
Luther James ("Jim") Gaskell, KS

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who left us since the last Newsletter.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Richard A. Hogue (91) of Lincoln, NE passed away on Dec. 18, 2011. He graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy in June 1942. **Richard** obtained his pilot's license while in college and served in the U.S. Army Air Force in the European Theater in World War II. He had a successful thirty five year career with the SCS, retiring in 1978 as the Assistant Director of the Midwest National Technical Center. In 1945, **Richard** met and married **Elizabeth Jones** in South Wales where he was stationed during the war. He is survived by his wife of 66 years **Elizabeth (Betty)** and their six children: **Ronald (Sherry Smith)** Beaumont, TX; **Diana (Thomas Schur)** Syracuse, NY; **Pamela (Michael Hurley)** Raleigh, NC; **Sandra (Fred Duncan)** Ada, OK; **Karen (Kurt Suhr)** Lincoln, NE; and **Sharon (Merv Thompson)** Birmingham, AL. Additional survivors include 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Iowa State University – Department of Agronomy or the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Alyce James of Meridian, ID passed away on Sept. 5, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 61 years **George** who retired as a plant materials specialist with the SCS in 1984. Also surviving are her two beloved sons, **Tom** of Meridian and **Donald (JoAnn)** of League City, TX, and her four grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Idaho Humane Society, 4775 Dorman Street, Boise, ID 83705, or the American Red Cross, Red Cross Blood Services, 5380 Franklin Road, Boise, ID 83705.

Earl B. (Burton) Lillevig (84) passed away Dec. 11, 2011 in Portland, OR. He was a veteran of the Merchant Marines, the United States Army, and served in Viet Nam with the Army Corps of Engineers. He worked for the SCS as a civil engineer in the Engineering & Watershed Planning Unit. **Earl** was preceded in death in 2001 by his wife of 50 years, **Delva Mae Howard** and they are survived by a closely knit circle of foster children, family, and friends.

Dave Ivey of Lincoln, NE passed away on Nov. 2, 2011. He retired from the SCS as a conservation technician. He worked in Oakland, NE.

Susan (Wagner) Burky (47) of Palmyra, PA, formerly of San Antonio, TX, passed away on Dec. 28, 2011. She currently was employed as an administrative operations assistant for the NRCS. She is survived by her husband, **Glenn Burky** and two step children. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions be made to Grace United Methodist Church, 433 East Main Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036.

Esther P. Gallacher (79) passed away Sept. 29, 2010, at her home in Ocean Pines, MD. **Esther** was preceded in death by her husband **Lincoln F. Gallacher**, retired SCS Director of Administrative Services Division and ARSCSE Secretary-Treasurer from 1984-2000. **Esther** is survived by her two daughters, **Lueanne Dority White** and **Karen Dority Alfors** and her husband, **Richard**; stepdaughter, **Nina Gould** and her husband, **Gilbert**; stepson, **David Gallacher** and his wife, **Linda**; 14 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD. 21804.

Ronald Forness (77) of Abercrombie, ND passed away on Feb. 6, 2011. **Ron** worked with the SCS Watershed Planning Party in Bismarck for many years. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley**, his daughter, **Lori Watson**, Port Townsend, WA; his son, **Bob Schaff**; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Orville Overboe (83) passed away on Feb. 10, 2011 at home in Midlothian, VA. He worked for SCS for 10 years in ND and 25 years with ASCS in Washington, DC. He was Head of Feed Grains and Soybean Analysis Section with the USDA when he retired. He is survived by his five children, **Kathy (Kerry) McQuiddy** of Powhatan, **Beth (Mike) Morrow** of Chesapeake, **Julie (Randy) Gibson** of Glen Allen, **Troy (Jenn) Overboe** of California and **Trent (Stephanie) Overboe** of Powhatan; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his two beloved wives, **LuVonne Bergren Overboe** and **Jacquelyn Running Overboe** and an infant daughter, **Stacy**.

Rosella "Sally" Thompson (82) of Devils Lake, ND passed away on April 11, 2011. She was the wife of **James R. Thompson** who worked in a number of SCS offices in ND. Sally was a nurse in Missoula, MT and five locations in ND. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **James R.**; son **James C. (Peach) Thompson**, Houston, TX; daughter **Nancy D. (Dale) Woodhiser**, Missoula, MT; son, **Paul J. (Amy) Thompson**, Devils Lake; and four grandchildren.

William Baribeau (94) of Golden Valley, MN, formerly of Valley City, ND passed away on June 28, 2011. He worked as Unit Manager in Valley City, ND from 1949 until retirement in 1979. He is survived by his son, **Ken Baribeau**, Fort Myers, FL; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife **Magdalena** and his daughter, **Margaret Baribeau Kopp**.

DeWayne "Fritz" Hirschhorn (70) of McClusky, ND passed away on Aug. 17, 2011. He worked in Garrison and McClusky, ND field offices of the SCS/NRCS. He is survived by his wife, **Diana**; two sons, **Darin (Larinda)**, LaMoure, ND and **Doran (Tatum)**, Bismarck, ND; and seven grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Earl W. Elkins (92) of Dickinson, ND passed away on Sept., 14, 2011. **Earl** worked for SCS at Hettinger, ND (1963-66) and then Dickinson, ND (1966-83). From 1983-89 he worked for Western Soil Conservation District. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Clara**; one daughter, **Earleen (Gary) Friez**; two sons, **Gerald (Donna) Elkins** and **Arthur (Teryl) Elkins**; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; twin sisters and one sister-in-law. He was preceded in death by 5 brothers, three sisters and a grandson.

Walter Lee Lamar (70) of Isabella, OK passed away on Oct. 31, 2011 after 15 years and several surgeries for larynx cancer. He attended Cameron College in Lawton, OK for two years, finishing with a BS degree in Soil Science at Oklahoma State University in 1962. After working as a County Agent and for the Bureau of Reclamation in CO and TX, **Walter** moved to Guthrie, OK in 1966 to work for the SCS. In 1969, he was promoted to District Conservationist in Okeene, OK, and later moved to Fairview, OK as a Conservationist where he retired in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Joy**; four children; **Timothy, Andrea, Bryan, and Adrian**; and five grandchildren.

Dean E. Swigart (85) of Lucas, OH passed away on Nov. 1, 2011. Shortly after graduation from high school, he served in the United States Navy as a radioman during WWII. **Dean** graduated from The Ohio State University earning his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture. Following college, he returned home to the family farm, which was established in Lucas before the civil war. For 35 years **Dean** worked as a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1985. While working as a technician, one of Dean's many accomplishments was engineering over 350 farm ponds. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 64 years **Beverly Swigart** of Lucas; daughter **Sharon (Michael) Hinz** of Rochester Hills, MI; son **James (Ginger) Swigart** of Pollock Pines, CA; and two granddaughters.

Floyd Kelly (85) of Grand Junction, CO passed away on Mar. 30, 2011. **Floyd** retired in 1982 from the SCS as an irrigation engineer.

Senior Conservationist Thomas E. Mullins (84) of Wray, CO passed away on July 28, 2005. He retired in 1978 from the SCS as the State Range Conservationist. He served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

Senior Conservationist Kermit Langford "Kit" Carson (99) passed away on Dec. 1, 2008. **Kit** was a pioneer conservationist, living and working across TX, UT, NM, AZ, and CO as a civil engineer in the USDA SCS, retiring in 1973. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, **Erna**; his children, **Karen Robinette**, of San Antonio, TX, **Dr. Paul Carson**, and wife **Pat** of Ann Arbor, MI and **David Carson**, and wife, **Anne**, of Boulder, CO; six grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Rudolph Chavis (77) of Lumberton, NC passed away on Dec. 6, 2011. He retired as an engineering technician and construction inspector with the SCS. He is survived by his wife, **Helen B. Chavis** of the home; a son, **James Rudolph Chavis** of Lumberton; two daughters, **Wanda K. Rhoades** of Lumberton and **Alicia C. Davis** of Shannon; six grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Caroline P. Hiovich (83) of Raleigh, NC passed away on Nov. 15, 2011. She was the Budget Officer in the NC State Office of the SCS for many years, retiring in 1990. **Caroline** was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, **John Hiovich**. **Caroline** is survived by her children **Alice Heaney** of Durham, NC; **Joy Parks** of Raleigh, NC; and **John P. (Capri) Hiovich** of Shelby Twp., MI; and five grandchildren.

Jeanette Stroesenreuther (75) of Lansing, MI passed away on July 22, 2011. She was the wife of **Neil Stroesenreuther**, retired State Soil Scientist with the SCS. **Neil** is now living at 1350 Jefferson Street, Baraboo, WI 53913-1785.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Garland P. Colvin (76) Shreveport, LA passed away April 27, 2011 at his home. He served in the United States Marines from 1953 to 1957. He worked for the SCS for 34 years in several locations in LA. He retired as an Area Conservationist in 1994. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Gay Denham Colvin**, and two daughters.

Donald McDaniel (58) of Ville Platte, LA passed away June 21, 2011. He graduated from the University of Louisiana - Lafayette. He started working for SCS as a soil scientist in 1974. **Donald** worked in two major areas in Southeast LA as a soil survey party leader and a team leader for a MLRA mapping project located at Eunice, LA. He took a disability retirement on Sept. 6, 2003.

Life member **Nelton Otto Salch** (78) of Corpus Christi passed away on Oct. 2, 2011. He was a graduate of Texas A&M class of 1955-Corps of Cadets. **Nelton** was employed for 30 years as a civil engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1993. He served as the Irrigation Engineer at the SNTC and as the State Conservation Engineer in FL. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Kathreen**; his sons **Clayton Richard (Kimberly) Salch** and **Michael (Cindy) Salch**; a daughter **Vicki Jo (Edward) Smith**; five grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the scholarship fund of Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, 1134 Fin Feather Road, Bryan, TX 77803.

C. L. Proctor Sr. (82) of Burleson, TX passed away peacefully at home after a long illness on Oct. 16, 2011. **C. L.** was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, **Martha Westbrook Proctor**, and a son, **C. L. "Butch" Proctor Jr.** He was survived by three children. **Martha** retired from the SCS at the South NTC in Fort Worth.

John R. Pipes (83) of Gainesville, TX passed away on Oct. 6, 2011. **John Roy** graduated from Tarleton State University in 1948 and Texas A&M in 1957 with an engineering degree. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea from 1951 to 1953. **John** retired as an engineer with the SCS after 33 years. He is survived by two sons and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mary Josephine Cox Scholarship Fund, NCTC Foundation, 1525 W. California St., Gainesville, TX 76240 or the Cooke County A&M Club Scholarship Fund, c/o Van Knight, PO. Box 10, Gainesville, TX 76241.

Woodrow Harrell (93) of Rockwall, TX passed away on Nov. 2, 2011. He graduated in agriculture from East Texas State University. **Woodrow** served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, serving within the Bougainville campaign on the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Theatre from 1942-1945. After his military service, **Woodrow** devoted a 45-year career to the SCS, retiring as a district conservationist. Upon retirement, **Woodrow** was a dedicated citizen cooperative weather observer, serving the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Cooperative Observer program. In recognition of his 45 years of service and dedication, NOAA presented **Woodrow** with the Dick Hagemeyer Award in 2010. **Woodrow** is survived by his loving wife of more than 71 years, **Theda Roddy-Harrell**, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Kupper (91) of Marlin, TX passed away on Oct. 26, 2011. **Bob** became a full time employee of the USDA SCS in 1949 working in Muenster, TX, then Giddings, TX, before transferring to Marlin where he served the remainder of his 33 years of service. **Bob** is survived by **Florene Endres Kupper**, his wife of 65 years; his sons, **Chris Kupper** and wife, **Linda Van Blaricom**, **Phillip W. Kupper**, **Douglas (Francesca) Kupper**, **Doyle (Nancy) Kupper**, and **Eric (Kikee) Kupper**; and son-in-law, **Mario Binetti**, ten grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Roberta Camp (81) of Temple, TX passed away on Oct. 26, 2011. She was the wife of **Joe Camp** who retired from the SCS in 1980. They lived in Marfa, Van Horn, Pecos, and San Marcos before moving to Temple in 1974.

Bernard H. Mask (90) of Tyler, TX passed away on Oct. 30, 2011. He retired from SCS as a soil conservationist in Tyler, TX. He attended Texas A & M for two years before being called to serve in the U.S. Army for six long years. During WWII he was stationed in London where he met the love of his life, **Joyce**, who passed away in Dec. of 2008. Upon returning from the service he received his Bachelor's Degree from Stephen F. Austin University. Survivors include two daughters and two grandchildren.

James Mike McGuire (82) of Bryan, TX passed away on Oct. 30, 2011. He graduated from Sam Houston State University. **Mike** retired as an Area Conservationist for SCS after 35 years of service. Survivors include a son, two daughters, ten grandchildren, and 21 great grandchildren.

John Vincent Chelf (82) of Wewoka, OK passed away on Aug. 18, 2011. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in agriculture. He was a district conservationist with the SCS. **John** served in the U.S. Army as staff sergeant during the Korean Conflict. Survivors include his wife of 53 years **Neva** of home; two sons, and six grandchildren.

Alfred Thompson (69), farmer, of Tullahassee, OK, passed away Aug. 4, 2011. He was a soil conservation technician with the NRCS, retiring after 40 years of service. **Alfred** is survived by his son **Alan Thompson**, Tullahassee, OK; a daughter **Vetrice Woods**, San Antonio, TX; 15 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Giles Dewitt "Dee" Passmore Jr. (67) of Sayre, OK passed away on July 31, 2011. He retired from the NRCS as a soil conservationist in January, 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Vanetta Marie Stone Passmore**; two children, and five grandchildren.

Leola Lee Hayden (85) of Clinton, OK passed away on May 10, 2011. She retired in 1988 as an accounting technician with the SCS in the Stillwater. Preceding her in death was her husband, **Hubert Hayden**. Survivors include a son, **Vaughn**, of the home; and a brother, **Richard Shay** of Pampa, TX.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Betty B. Craft (81) of Champaign, IL passed away on Dec. 5, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 62 years **Bob Craft**, a retired public affairs specialist with the SCS and one time ARCSE state representative for IL. Other survivors include two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. **Betty** attended Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated from Northern Illinois University. Memorial donations may be made to First United Methodist Church, Champaign; Carle Hospice, 206A W. Anthony Drive, Champaign, IL 61822; or the donor's choice.

Robert Keith Kissler (80) of Columbus, OH passed away on Nov. 25, 2011 at home. He fought a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was a graduate of West Virginia University and was a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served in the Korean Conflict. He retired from the SCS as Public Information Officer. A number of his photographs are still being used in NRCS publications. He is survived by his wife **Kelly**, two children, **Jennifer Kissler**, **Robert (Ann-Michel) Kissler**, two step children **Amanda** and **Meghan Bryant**, and seven grandchildren.

Charles T. Saari, 65, of Sartell, MN passed away on Nov. 3, 2011. He is survived by his wife, **Kathy** of Sartell; and children, **Matthew (Jodi)**, Apple Valley, MN and **Julia (Christopher) Saari-Franks** of Springfield, MA. **Charles** was a Soil Scientist for NRCS (SCS) for 32 years, retiring in 2003. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, and camping.

Ernest C. Shillingburg (90) of Temple, TX passed away on Dec. 3, 2011 at his residence. He attended John Tarleton Agricultural College for two years. He then transferred to Texas A & M College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education. While at A & M, **Ernest** was a proud member of the Corps of Cadets and Class of 1943. His class was required to attend college year round due to the increased need for military officers during World War II. **Ernest** was an army veteran of World War II, serving on active duty from January 1943 until May 1946. In northern Europe, he was an infantry officer with the 7th Armored Division, 48th Armored Infantry Battalion. While with the 7th AD, Ernest was involved in battle campaigns in Holland, Belgium, and Germany. His military decorations include the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars, the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Purple Heart for wounds received in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He was honorably discharged from active duty with the rank of Captain and continued to serve in the Army reserves until 1951. In 1946, **Ernest** began work for the SCS and worked in Albany, Iowa Park, Fort Worth, and Temple as well as extended assignments in Washington, D.C. In 1978, **Ernest** retired from the SCS as the State Administrative Officer in the SCS state office in Temple. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, **Bertha Shillingburg** of Temple; a son, **Don (Jill) Shillingburg** of Temple; a daughter, **Karen Shillingburg** of Rosebud; and two grandsons. Memorials may be given in Mr. Shillingburg's name to the First United Methodist Church of Temple, 102 N. 2nd Street, Temple, TX 76501 or to Lighthouse Hospice, 2913 Williams Drive, Suite 320, Georgetown, TX 78628.

J. B. Brisbin (79) of Victoria, TX passed away Dec. 4, 2011. He served his country in the United States Marines during the Korean conflict. He was an area clerk, retiring from the SCS and the Veterans Administration after 31 years of service. **J. B.** is survived by his wife, **Donnie Miller Brisbin**, two children, ten grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Hilding Hokanson (86) of Marshall, MN passed away on Dec. 1, 2011. **Hilding** began his work with the SCS in Marshall in 1951 as a soil scientist, working until his retirement in 1986. He mapped over 1 million acres of soils in SW Minnesota. **Hilding** served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 – 1946. He then attended the University of Minnesota from 1946 – 1950 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in soils. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Elsie**, and children **Martha (Roger) Molde** of Montevideo, **John Hokanson** of Maple Grove, and daughter-in-law **Debbie Hokanson** of Cottonwood, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son **Joel Hilding Hokanson**.

Antonio "Tony" Chavez (79) of Salina, KS passed away on Oct. 23, 2011. **Tony** served more than 20 years in the United States Army and retired at the rank of Sergeant First Class. After his military career, he worked as a supply clerk for the SCS. He was preceded in death by a son, and is survived by his wife, **Rachel**, six children, 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Helen Marie (Steele) Foerschler (88) of Enterprise, KS passed away on Oct. 21, 2011. She graduated from high school with a Teacher's Certificate with the class of 1941 and taught in three different one-room schools in Dickinson County. She is survived by her husband **Bill Foerschler**, who retired in 1980 as a soil conservation technician with SCS. Other survivors include four sons, three daughters, 21 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Raymond F. Linthicum (92) of Newton, IA passed away on Oct. 4, 2011. He was a 1937 graduate of Shannon City High School. **Ray** was a conservation technician for the SCS for 22 years, retiring in 1979. Prior to that he was a farmer. **Ray** is survived by his wife, **Jean Linthicum** of Newton; his daughter, **Kay Thompson** of Maple Grove, MN; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Velma**; his uncle and aunt who raised him from the age of 9, **Harold & Lattie Linthicum**. Memorials to the First Presbyterian Church or to Skiff Hospice may be left at the funeral home.

Alfred J. "Al" Koch (97) of Houston, TX, formerly of Atwood, KS passed away on Dec. 11, 2011. He was a district conservationist with the SCS in Atwood. He is survived by his wife, **Mary**, of Houston; one son, **Richard (Bonnie)**, of Los Alamos, NM; daughters, **Mary Ann Zia Koch**, of Fort Collins, CO, and **Elizabeth Koch**, of Houston; one grandchild; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mary L. Whelpley (84) of McPherson, KS passed away on Nov. 24, 2011. Her survivors include her husband, **Robert Whelpley** of the home who retired in 1986 as a district conservationist with SCS; three sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Multi Community Diversified Services (MCDS) in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Honorary Senior Conservationist Joseph E. "Joe" Schrader (91) of Oskaloosa, KS passed away on Nov. 18, 2011. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII, serving in the 8th Armored Division in the European Theater of Operations until 1945. In 1948, **Joe** earned a B.S. degree in agronomy from Kansas State University. **Joe** joined the SCS in Oskaloosa, where he retired in 1975 after 27 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 59 years **Clara Vanek Schrader** of the home. Other survivors include one daughter, **Deborah Lamphier**, Rock Island, IL, two sons, **Daniel (Peggy) Schrader**, Federal Way, WA, and **David Schrader**, Oklahoma City, OK, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson. **Joe** bequeathed his body to the Kansas University Medical Center. The family requests memorials to St. Theresa's Church or to the Paralyzed Veterans of America in care of the Barnett Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 602, 1220 Walnut, Hwy 59, Oskaloosa, KS. 66066.

Patricia Ann (Karlen) Flickinger (80) of Fairfax Station, VA passed away Nov. 19, 2011. She was the wife of **Art Flickinger**, who retired in 1987 as a Special Coordinator in Basin and Area Planning Division of the SCS, Washington, DC. Her passing was three days short of their 60th wedding anniversary. **Pat** served in the Fairfax County School System for 19 years as a secretary to the principal for the Area IV Special Education staff and at Key Middle School. In addition to her husband she is survived by four sons, one daughter, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, **Kathy Seal**, who passed away on May 3, 2006. Preferred memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville, IN or to Capital Caring in Falls Church, VA.

Elsie Edna Clara Batchelor (82) of Bozeman, MT passed away on Nov. 11, 2011. **Elsie** is survived by her loving husband **Ron**, who retired from the SCS, four children, and eight grandchildren. Her family requests that in lieu of flowers, people consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at 3010 11th Ave. North, Billings, MT, 59101.

Senior Conservationist Carl W. Walker (101) of Yakima, WA passed away at his home on Aug. 12, 2011. He attended New Mexico A & M, graduating in 1932 with a degree in engineering. In Aug. 1948 he moved with his family to Yakima, Washington from Farmington, New Mexico. **Carl** served as an area engineer for the SCS, retiring after 40+ years of service. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He spent time in Iran helping develop plans for irrigating the desert. **Carl & Lorene** led many tours to all parts of the world, emphasizing and visiting Christian Missionary sites. His wife, **Lorene**, preceded him in death after 75 years of marriage. He is survived by his son, **Dr. Wesley C. Walker** and wife **Karen**, two grandsons and seven great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Methodist Church Outreach fund or Lazy F Methodist Camp.

Senior Conservationist Wade H. Hamor (92) of Lincoln, NE passed away on June 27, 2010. **Wade** retired in 1977 as a biologist with the SCS at the Midwest National Technical Center after 21 years of service. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient. Family members include wife, **Margaret "Peg"**; special daughter, **Trudy Lynne Hamor** and partner, **Joi Colamonico**, Lincoln, NE. Body was donated to the Nebraska Anatomical Board.

Senior Conservationist Nick Milasnovich (92) of Alma, KS passed away March 20, 2010. **Nick** worked as a soil scientist for SCS for 22 years, retiring 1977. **Nick** was drafted into the United States Army on March 4, 1941, and was on maneuvers with the First Army when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. He was transferred into the Army Air Corps and after serving many assignments in the United States, he was separated from active duty on January 26, 1946. After returning home to Ohio, he joined the Army Reserve and was active for 27 years. He retired in June 1973 with a total of 32 years of military service. He attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4, CW4, and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. His wife 53 years, **LaVon**, preceded him in death on Dec. 5, 2002.

Senior Conservationist Alvin A. "Al" Erdman (92) of Waukesha, WI passed away on May 3, 2011. He retired in 1981 as a District Conservationist with the SCS. **Al** is survived by his children **Janet (John) O'Brien** and **Allan Erdman** and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife **Mary Jane (nee Stepler)**. Memorials to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church or School.

Senior Conservationist Robert E. Modesitt (90) of Glendale, AZ passed away on Sept. 12, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II reaching the rank of Major. **Robert** was a soil scientist with the SCS, retiring in 1975 as an area conservationist.

Senior Conservationist William Ellis McKinzie (91) Lincoln, NE passed away on Sept. 18, 2011. **William** attended the University of Nebraska on a 4-H scholarship graduating in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and a commission in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. During WW II, after D-day and Utah Beach he remained in combat through the Battle of the Bulge and until VE day. **William** returned to the United States as a Major in 1945. After separation from the Army he entered graduate school at the University of Nebraska, followed by employment with the SCS as a soil scientist. In 1960 he was transferred to Puerto Rico as supervisory soil scientist. He returned to the states in 1965 and ultimately retired after 34 years of service in 1976. He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, **Dorothy**; sons **William G. McKinzie** of Lincoln and **Dr. Charles E. (Dorothy) McKinzie** of Alexandria, MN; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, to Sesostris Temple of the Shrine Hospital Transportation Fund, 1050 Saltillo Road, Roca, NE 68430 or the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Foundation.

Marlene Meyer (81) of Windsor Heights, IA passed away on Dec. 16, 2011. She graduated from Maxwell High School and AIB. **Marlene** was preceded in death by her husband **Martin**, who worked for the SCS as an economist on the watershed staff. She is survived by three daughters; **Susan (Carl) Bledsoe** of Windsor Heights, **Laurie Meyer** of Des Moines and **Carole (Shawn) McGorrian** of Sherman Oaks, CA; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. Memorials may be directed to the Windsor Heights Lutheran Church.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist Stroud Ben Nesbitt (91) passed away on May 30, 2011 in McKinney, TX. He was born on his father's birthday at their family farm in Nesbitt, TX where his family had lived since the 1840's. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Margaret Manley Nesbitt**, as well as his two children: **Rose Anne Nesbitt (Kenneth) Mott** and **Earl Stroud (Kim) Nesbitt**; and a daughter-in-law, **Janet Nesbitt James**; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. **Stroud** was preceded in death by his son **Gabe Nesbitt**. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the onset of World War II and proudly served in the Pacific theater, including the battle of Guadalcanal. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves with over 30 years of service. He worked in Marshall, El Paso, Carthage, and finally in McKinney as a conservation technician for the SCS, retiring in 1982. Memorials may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church or Toys for Tots.

Vaughn D. Rasar (69) of Rome, ME passed away at his home on July 11, 2011 after a metastatic melanoma diagnosis in early May. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management at Oklahoma State University and then attended the University of Maine at Orono, where he earned a master degree of science in wildlife management. Shortly thereafter, he began to teach biology at Thomas College in Waterville. **Vaughn** was perhaps best known as the owner of Rome Strawberry Patch, a pick-your-own strawberry farm to which he devoted much of his time and talent for the last 20 years. He worked for NRCS for 15 years, retiring in 2006. He is survived by his devoted wife of 42 years, **Jean (Farnham) Rasar**; his daughter, **Laura Rasar (Bob) King** of West Friendship, MD; his son, **Peter (Karen) Rasar**, of Oakland; and three grandchildren.

William "Bill" Guy Crook, Jr., (86) of Senatobia, MS, formerly of Jonesboro, AR, passed away on June 20, 2011, at his home. **Bill** was a 1942 graduate of Parkin High School and worked as a surveyor for the SCS. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Al Jean Weeks Crook**. **Bill** is survived by one son and two daughters. Family request memorials to Arkansas Wildlife Federation or Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

David Stephen Mackey (66) of Edina, MO, passed away on Sept. 3, 2011, at the Audrain Medical Center in Mexico, MO after suffering injuries from a farming accident on his farm northeast of Edina, MO earlier in the day. **David** worked for NRCS for 34 years, retiring in 2000 as a district conservationist. Appointments included DeKalb County, Worth County, and Knox County. He was involved in Quail Forever and a founding member of the Knox County Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, **Margaret** of the home, four children, and nine grandchildren. An expression of sympathy in memory of **David Mackey** may be left to the Edina United Methodist Church.

Vernon Richard Stephens (72) of Columbia, MO passed away on his 72nd birthday on Oct. 12, 2011. He retired from the NRCS in 2004 as a human resources specialist for the NRCS Regional Office in Atlanta, GA. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Judy Stephens**; three daughters; and five grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Melvin "Scott" Argabright (84) of Lincoln, NE passed away on Dec. 26, 2011 from acute myelogenous leukemia. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1951. After farming for five years, in Nov. 1955, he joined the SCS in SD. During the next 25 years, he served as district conservationist, area conservationist, state agronomist, and state resource conservationist at various locations in SD. In 1980, **Scott & Dorthy** moved to Lincoln where **Scott** was assigned as conservation agronomist serving a 12 state Midwest region. He retired from SCS in 1992. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Dorthy**; sons, daughters-in-law, **Norman (Cherrie) Argabright**, Topeka, KS; **Patrick (Karen) Argabright**, Jackson, NJ; **Virginia Argabright**, Lincoln, NE; **Diana (Martin) Schweitzer**, Swanton, NE; eight grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren. Memorials contributions are suggested to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 8320 South Street.

Melford Jay Sheley (84) of Guthrie Center, IA passed away on Dec. 17, 2011. He was a conservation technician for the SCS in the Guthrie Center field office. He retired with 30 years of service. **Jay** was a past-president of the Iowa Beef Producers Association. From February 17, 1945 until July 25, 1946 he was in the United States Navy, serving in the South Pacific on the ship, LCI L 652. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal and American Campaign Medal. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Ethel**, a son and two daughters, five grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be left to: First Christian Church Window Fund, American Legion Post #124, or S.A.L. Squadron #124 Building Fund.

Martin Frederick Hintz (76) of Mount Ayr, IA passed away on Nov. 10, 2011. He served three years in the U.S. Army which included 16 months in Korea. **Martin** graduated from Iowa State University in 1960 with a Degree in Agriculture Education. **Martin** work for the SCS from which he retired in 1992. Preceding him in death was his wife of 35 years, **Wanda Kingsolver Hintz**. He is survived by three sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A memorial fund has been established to the William R. Bliss Cancer Center at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, IA.

Leo Duree (87) of Chariton, IA passed away on May 11, 2011. He was a conservation technician for the SCS in the Chariton field office. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Erma**; three daughters, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials to Circle of Life Hospice or Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Jake Liston of Albright, WV passed away on Oct. 29, 2011. **Jake** is survived by his wife, **Linda Liston**, who retired from the SCS, and children and grandchildren. He retired from the Veterans Administration as an inspector. He served in both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He was a fighter interceptor jet airplane mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. **Jake** was also an avid airplane pilot. Memorial donations may be made to: Hospice Care Corporation, PO Box 760, Arthurdale, WV 26520-0760.

Nancy Cooper of Morgantown, WV, passed away on Dec. 27, 2011. **Nancy** is survived by her husband **Jim** who retired from the Conservation and Application Division in the National Office of the SCS in 1986, after serving in positions in MI & WV. Donations can be made to the Morgantown, WV Hospice.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Note: Recent web searches have found that the following Senior Conservationists are deceased although the ARCSE records had not reflected such. We are showing them in the memoriam since we do not have a record of having done so previously. They are in order of birth.

Senior Conservationist Ivey C. Kelly (96) of Pickens, SC passed away on Dec. 22, 1998. **Ivey** retired in 1977 as a conservation technician with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist John Kenneth Terres (100) of Bronxville, NY passed away shortly before his 101st birthday on Dec. 8, 2006. He was an American naturalist and author. He is best known for his popular works on North American birds. He authored more than fifty works, usually writing as **John K. Terres**. He worked as a field biologist for the SCS from 1936 until 1942.

Senior Conservationist Boyd C. Venable (95) of Hillsville, VA passed away on Dec. 17, 2001. **Boyd** retired in 1970 as an area conservationist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Johnston C. Craig (90) of Laverne, CA passed away on Aug. 27, 1997. **Johnston** was an area conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1964.

Senior Conservationist William G. Patterson (91) of Bishophill, SC passed away on Jan. 1, 1998. **William** was a work unit conservationist, forester by discipline, with the SCS, retiring in 1965. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Senior Conservationist Marshall P. Dean (99) of Butler, GA passed away on Dec. 12, 2003. **Marshall** was a work unit technician with the SCS, retiring in 1942.

Senior Conservationist Frank F. Lesesne (93) of Greeleyville, SC passed away on July 3, 2000. He was the Assistant State Soil Scientist with the SCS, retiring in 1965.

Senior Conservationist Richard E. Reinke (97) of Bradenton, FL passed away on March 7, 2005. **Richard** was an engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1967. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps and after retiring from SCS, served with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Senior Conservationist Milford E. Schmidt (88) of Findlay, OH passed away on July 25, 1996. He was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1969.

Senior Conservationist Will D. McCorkle (94) of Ft. Smith, AR passed away on July 13, 2002. He was an area conservationist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist George V. Bowers (94) of Sarasota, FL passed away on Sept. 22, 2002. He worked for the SCS.

Senior Conservationist James E. Clay (95) of Huntsville, AL passed away on Sept. 30, 2004. He was a soil conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1975.

Honorary Senior Conservationist Robert L. Thigpin (97) of Corsicana, TX passed away on Oct. 23, 2005. **Robert** was an engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1965.

Senior Conservationist Gail W. Eley (96) of Portland, IN passed away on Feb. 20, 2005. **Gail** was a regional water management engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1965.

Senior Conservationist Dexter M. Clark (90) of Oneonta, AL passed away on Jan. 17, 2000. **Dexter** was a conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1980.

Senior Conservationist Helen M. Virag (98) of Brandon, FL passed away on March 27, 2008. **Helen** was a secretary with the SCS for 35 years, retiring in 1972 from her last position in Portland, OR.

Senior Conservationist Walter M. Ferguson (90) of Indio, CA passed away on Feb. 12, 2000. **Walter** was a woodland specialist with the SCS in Portland, OR when he retired in 1968. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Senior Conservationist Ludwig L. Kelly (86) of Esponola, NM passed away on Jan. 19, 1996. **Ludwig** was a hydraulic engineer with the Agricultural Research Service, retiring in 1966.

Senior Conservationist Dale C. Barker (95) of Coralville, IA passed away on Nov. 17, 2004. **Dale** was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1970.

Senior Conservationist Leonard R. Wohletz (90) of Berkeley, CA passed away on April 24, 2000. He was the State Soil Scientist with the SCS, retiring in 1971 as the Assistant State Conservationist.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist Gladys Donaldson (93) of Auburn, AL passed away on August 9, 2003. **Gladys** was a secretary with the SCS, retiring in 1971.

Senior Conservationist Robert B. Hickok (87) of Riverside, CA passed away on July 5, 1997. **Robert** was hydrologist with the SCS, retiring in 1968 as the Resources Inventory Leader.

Senior Conservationist Edwin Saylor (87) of El Cerrito, CA passed away on March 31, 1998. **Edwin** was an engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1971 as the Assistant State Conservationist. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Senior Conservationist Muriel B. Geoghegan (91) of Houston, TX, formerly of Arlington, VA passed away on June 30, 2001. **Muriel** was a secretary with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist William H. Mann (93) of Gretna, VA passed away on July 27, 2003. **William** was a work unit conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1972.

Senior Conservationist L. J. Lann (91) of San Marcos, TX passed away on June 1, 2002. **L. J.** was an engineer with the SCS, retiring in 1972 as the Assistant State Conservationist.

Senior Conservationist Donald S. Douglas (95) of Portland, OR passed away on May 19, 2006. **Donald** was a plant materials specialist with the SCS, retiring in 1973.

Senior Conservationist J. Frederick Hazen (86) of Boyds, MD passed away on Aug. 22, 1997. **Frederick** was a soil conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1973.

Honorary Senior Conservationist Harrison Julius Maker (99) of Tempe, AZ passed away on April 29, 2010. He was a State Soil Scientist with the SCS retiring in 1968.

Honorary Senior Conservationist William O. Surrey (95) of Webster, NY passed away on Nov. 17, 2006. **William** was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1976.

Senior Conservationist Jesse A. Roberts (88) of Lincoln, NE passed away on Jan. 6, 2000. **Jesse** was a soil conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1969.

Senior Conservationist Byron A. Barnes (91) of Olney, MD passed away on Jan. 28, 2003. **Byron** retired in 1973 as Chief of Soil Survey Manuscripts with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Elmer C. Bentz (90) of Newton, KS passed away on March 11, 2002. He was a work unit conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1977.

Senior Conservationist Elisha Cornelius Sease (93) of Newberry, SC passed away on Nov. 11, 2005. He was a soil scientist with the SCS, retiring in 1971. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps. **Elisha** served in the Officers Reserve Corps in the 1930's, and during World War II, he was a Captain in the 35th Infantry Regiment (July 1944 to December 1945).

Senior Conservationist F. Glennon Loyd (97) of Hyattsville, MD passed away on June 10, 2009. He worked as an information specialist for the SCS. **Glennon** was the beloved husband of the late **E. Jean Loyd**. He is survived by children **Patrick V. (Peggy) Loyd, F. Glen (Chris) Loyd, T. Myron (Maxine) Loyd, Dennis B. Loyd, and Nancy J. Loyd**; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Louis A. Parton (85) of Bakersfield, CA passed away on Jan. 15, 1998. **Louis** retired in 1973 as a district conservationist with the SCS. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Senior Conservationist Boyd J. Patton (93) of Buckhannon, WV, formerly of Baton Rouge, LA passed away on Nov. 11, 2005. **Boyd** retired in 1970 as a State Soil Scientist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Arnold Nowotny (89) of Minden, NV passed away on Feb. 20, 2002. **Arnold** worked for the SCS as a conservation agronomist and work unit conservationist, retiring in 1977.

Senior Conservationist Raymond R. Irwin (91) of Kenney, IL, formerly of North Plainfield, NJ passed away on July 31, 2004. **Raymond** worked for the SCS as a soil scientist and work unit conservationist, retiring in 1968. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Senior Conservationist John K. Howard (88) of Birmingham, AL passed away on Aug. 20, 2001. **John** was an agronomist with the SCS and retired in 1972 as an area conservationist.

Senior Conservationist Franklin H. Mullin (92) of Washington, IA passed away on April 5, 2006. **Frank** was a forester with the SCS and retired in 1973 as a district conservationist.

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IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Honorary Senior Conservationist Laurence Osburnsen (94) formerly of Big Arm and Surprise, AZ, passed away on May 4, 2008, in Kalispell, MT. He attended the Montana School of Mines from 1934 to 1935 and transferred to the University of Montana, where he received a degree in forestry in 1939. In 1942, **Larry** enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was trained as a combat glider pilot. After World War II, he worked for the SCS in NE and was later transferred to MT, where he worked in Circle, Superior, Missoula, and Butte. After his retirement from the SCS as an area conservationist in 1973, **Larry** took an assignment in Swaziland, Africa, to work on a land development and irrigation project until 1982. In 1984-85, he was employed by Morrison-Knudsen to work on a rice development project in Mindanao, Philippines. He was preceded in death by his wives **Winifred Osburnsen** and **Faye Sloan-Osburnsen** and his son, **James Osburnsen**. He is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Paul R. Batchelor (90) of Hillsville, VA passed away on Dec. 13, 2003. **Paul** was a district conservationist with the SCS at the time of his retirement in 1976.

Senior Conservationist James V. Martin (92) of Vernon, NY passed away on June 6, 2006. **James** was a district conservationist with the SCS at the time of his retirement in 1980. He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Senior Conservationist Harold W. Miller (86) of Yacolt, WA passed away on Jan. 28, 2000. **Harold** was a forester with the SCS, retiring in 1970 as the plant material specialist at the West National Technical Center.

Senior Conservationist Clyde E. Stuart (91) of Longview, TX passed away on May 29, 2009. **Clyde** attended Texas A & M University and retired in 1974 as contract specialist for the SCS. He served in the U. S. Army during WWII. He was preceded in death by a son, **David Stuart** and is survived by his wife, **Adele** of Longview; daughters and sons-in-law, **Judy (Bill) Brandt** of Dillsburg, PA, **Janet (Chuck) Renshaw** of Harrisburg, PA, and **Jean (Bryan) Wall** of Sugarland, TX; and seven grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Chester R. Wells (90) of Pittsburg, KS passed away on Jan. 22, 2009. **Chet** was husband of **Doris** and father of others. A World War II veteran, he worked for SCS, retiring as a District Conservationist in 1974. He also worked for Callison-Lough Funeral Home in AR before moving to Pittsburg.

Life member and Senior Conservationist John Thomas "J. T." Barnes (86) of Milton, FL passed away on April 15, 2008. He liked to refer to his birthday as 2-22-22. He was a soil conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1980 as an area conservationist. He also served as Veterans Service Officer for Santa Rosa County from March 1983 to June, 1997. He gave outright over a quarter of a million dollars out of his own pocket directly to needy veterans and their families. **John** graduated from Chumuckla High School in 1941. Tall and angular, he was an athlete who excelled in basketball, his team winning the basketball state championship in 1941. Following a brief stint with the Army Corps of Engineers, **John** entered the Army in 1942 and served through October 25, 1946, just six days less than four years. The next year he entered the University of Florida where he earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in three years in the College of Agriculture from 1946 to 1949. **John** was presented the F Letterwinner Award for basketball in 1946. He loved his school and arranged to include the university's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in his estate plan which establishes "The John T. Barnes Professorships Fund" in the amount of \$1 million or more.