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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter For Retired SCS And NRCS Employees

Vol. 39, No. 2

March/April 2012

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Lennie Losh

Congressional Actions - In a rare bipartisan mood, Congress passed and the President signed an extension of the Social Security tax cut, renewed unemployment benefits, and protection of Doctors treating Medicare patients from steep reimbursement cuts.

Washington leaders are saying this legislation might be the last major legislation to make it through this Congress before Election Day. Important issues such as expiring tax cuts, Pentagon budget disputes, and another hike in the nation's borrowing cap awaits a lame duck session that many of Capitol Hill are already dreading.

Rules on Security Transactions - Under the old rules, financial institutions were required only to report the gross proceeds from the sale of Securities in taxable accounts to IRS. It has been the investor's responsibility for tracking cost basis - calculating the gain or loss on investments. Tracking the cost basis seems simple enough. But when an investment is held for years and you have to adjust for factors such as reinvesting, dividends, capital gain distribution, stock splits, and corporate reorganizations, the process becomes more complicated.

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) - Just a reminder - when a federal employee or retiree dies, there should be a signed, validated copy listing the designated beneficiary with your other important papers that are readily accessible to your beneficiary. Any questions regarding designation or life insurance application form, contact the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 888-767-6738.

Farm Bill Update - The Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to take the lead on an omnibus farm bill and hopefully have its version completed by Memorial Day. Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich) is up for re-election. When proposed legislation moves to the floor of the House and Senate, members will want to offer amendments, some of which are likely to be controversial. For example, the 2008 farm bill was projected to cost \$58 billion with the majority (\$38 billion) going for nutrition programs. USDA spending on food stamps alone will surpass \$80 billion this fiscal year.

This process could take most of 2012, a short legislative year because of the Congressional and Presidential elections. Also in the mix, does a delay on final action on the bill until 2013 with a new Congress or Administration want an input opportunity?

USDA to close 259 offices, facilities, labs - The NRCS budget (not FY 2012-2013), while greatly dependent on "mandatory" programs, will close 24 soil survey offices in 21 states.

The most useless piece of equipment on a West Texas farm last year was a rain gauge.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Berkland

During a recent teleconference the Board decided to e-mail the newsletter to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses. We are also sending them a hard copy of the March/April newsletter. We are doing this on a trial basis for the March/April newsletter. Please e-mail me if you want to receive a hard copy in addition to the electronic copy in the future at mberkland@homesc.com.

In addition to cost savings, other advantages of publishing electronic copies include use of color photos, receiving the newsletter in the first week of the month instead of late in the month, and not being as restricted in size or length.

If you have e-mail and have not received an electronic copy of the newsletter by the time you receive your hard copy of the newsletter, we may not have your current e-mail address. Please send me your current e-mail address. We will continue to mail hard copies to those who request that method. We also plan to develop a process to put the newsletter on our web site in addition to emailing copies.

I want to encourage you to consider nominating a deserving fellow retiree for the President's Outstanding Community Service Award. I want to remind members that anyone may nominate a candidate for the award. Nominees will be those individuals who have distinguished themselves by providing sustained high quality service, possibly using their SCS/NRCS area of expertise, to local, state, or regional entities. Recipients of their service may also include volunteer work for various environmental groups, other units of government, or service organizations.

Nominations for the Award and documentation (no more than 2 pages) of qualifications and contributions should be made to the ARCSE Representative. The nominee's name and documentation will be sent to the Regional Vice President by May 15th. The Regional Vice President will select up to three nominations and send them to the President of ARCSE. The President (with the help of the Governing Board, if he/or she so chooses, will select the best nomination (s) to receive the Award. Winners will be selected by June 15th.

Another award, the ARCSE Distinguished Service Award, has the same documentation requirements and deadline dates as the Outstanding Community service Award. Nominees for this award will be those who have contributed in organizing ARCSE or promoting growth of the national or local ARCSE association. Additional information documenting the nominee's contributions to community service or various clubs and organizations, such as volunteer work, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts may also support the nomination, SWCD's, NRCS Earth Team, environmental groups, or other units of government or service organizations.

Presentation of the awards will be held at the National meeting to be held in Fort Worth, Texas on July 23-24, 2012.

As the South Carolina State Representative, I normally send out a message to my member email list asking for them to submit information that they would like to have me send in for

the next news letter. I usually send this out a couple of weeks before the newsletter is due. For example, in the September/October newsletter it stated that the next newsletter articles were due by October 25th for the November/December newsletter, so I sent out my request for articles around October 10th asking members to get me their articles by around October 20th. I know that several if not most all State Representatives follow this same procedure. Sometimes I get a little behind on this and then all of a sudden I get an email from John Peterson asking his folks to get articles to him. This is a good reminder for me—keep doing this, John!! If you are a member and do not have a State Representative just send your articles directly to our editor, **Mike Nethery**.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Jerry Hytry, Historian

Don Williams convened the first meeting of the "interim committee" on August 23, 1973 at **Minot "June" Silliman's** apartment. Prior to the meeting, **Don** and **June** had developed a draft constitution and three proposed names for the new organization. Those attending that first meeting were: **Ogden Greene, Hal Jenkins, Joy Hopkins, Charles Koch, Charles Koechley, Paul Lemon, Ben Osborn, Pete Peterson, Joe Rogers, June Silliman, and Don Williams**. Not able to attend but considered members of the committee were: **Wally Anderson, Kling Klingebiel, and Roy Hockensmith**.

The committee reviewed the proposed constitution, agreed upon a name "Association of Retired Soil Conservation Service Employees" {ARSCSE} and set the dues at \$6.00. The results of the meeting and the proposed constitution were to be sent to the 200 retirees that responded to **Don's** letter of June 1, 1973. That letter was mailed on September 10, 1973. The proposed constitution is now referred to as the "Charter".

Although there is no mention of it, I'm sure SCS personnel played a large part in getting the names and addresses of retirees to **Don Williams**. There may have even been clerical support in typing and mailing.

2012 DUES ARE PAST DUE

Please be sure that your dues are current by April 15, 2012 to ensure that you are listed in the annual directory. It will be distributed with the May/June Newsletter. If you are not sure if your dues are current, please take a look at your mailing label. If the number to the right center above your name is

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

a C11 or 11 or less, then your dues are now past due. If the number is C12, 12 or higher including any of the three digit numbers 995 through 999, no action is needed. **(Examples below.)** Checks for dues should be written to ARCSE and mailed to ARCSE, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454. If you believe your dues designation number to be incorrect, please contact the Secretary Treasurer."

*****ALL FOR ADC 123

0000123-11223 999 ◀
JOHN Q PUBLIC
1 GRANITE MOUNTAIN
ANYWHERE, USA 01010-1010

*****ALL FOR ADC 456

0000456-44556 11 ◀
JAMES P PUBLIC
11 BOULDER MOUNTAIN
ANYWHERE, USA 00101-0101

ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

Ron Marlow

State Representatives are encouraged to keep a close working relationship with someone in the NRCS State Office. Many of you do this by having the State Conservationist or other State Office representatives attend local ARCSE social events. If you have not had an opportunity to ensure that close working relationship recently, now is a good time to schedule a visit. This will also provide an opportunity to pass along a supply of the ARCSE brochures for placement in each retiree's packet. To further improve communications, some Representatives have their Email address added to the State Office's emailing list for newsy items. This gives you another venue for finding out about new retirees and deaths of retirees.

Many of you are planning your annual state retiree social function. These functions are a good opportunity to make our ARCSE membership brochure available to retirees. If you need additional brochures, please send a request to **Ron Marlow** at arcse@cox.net.

Finally, I want to welcome a new state representative on board. Upon **Stan Hobson's** retirement as the Representative for Idaho, I am pleased to report that **Sharon Norris**, retired Public Affairs Specialist for Idaho, has agreed to replace **Stan**. The Board extends its thanks to **Stan** for his service to the ARCSE and the retirees of Idaho.

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY/JUN 2012
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 25**

PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION



Paul Whittington is shown receiving his award from **Whitey Spears**, Arkansas ARCSE Representative, at a recent meeting. **Paul's** wife, **Faye**, and daughters, **Margaret Merideth** and **Jennifer Sisk** were present for the ceremony. See the September/October Newsletter for details of **Paul's** community service.

ARIZONA

(Vacant), ARCSE Representative

Doug Pease, Retired Arizona State Soil Scientist, sent in the following item: In the January/February 2012 issue I noted the passing of **Honorary Senior Conservationist Harrison Julius Maker**. I knew **Harry** from 1959 until his passing. Here are some comments about **Harry**.

Harrison J. Maker served as the State Soil Scientist in NM from the 1940s until he retired in 1968. **Harry** was born on Dec. 17, 1910. He passed away in Tempe, AZ on April 29, 2010.

After **Harry** retired he moved to Las Cruces, NM to join the Agricultural Experiment Station. **Harry** became the lead author of "Soil Associations and Land Classification for Irrigation" for all 32 counties in NM. He also was the lead author in the publication "Soils of New Mexico" a New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 285.

In Oct. 1959 I was a young raw soil scientist located in Montrose, PA. I had been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. My doctor recommended that I move to a drier climate. I stopped in Albuquerque, NM. I was able to get an interview with **Harry Maker**. He was willing to take a chance by arranging a transfer to NM. At the end of the interview **Harry** said, "Now if this transfer works out, I expect you to make a commitment to stay and not ask for a transfer back east." At the time I thought he was a little harsh. But I realized later that it was a valid request.

After a few years working as a field soil scientist in NM he supported my decision to go to New Mexico State University to get my Master's degree in soils. I knew that I would still have a job when I completed my degree requirements.

Later we both moved to AZ. I had the privilege of taking **Harry** to various functions for those who retired from the SCS.

FLORIDA

(Vacant), ARCSE Representative

Florida retirees held their mid-winter meeting in Orlando. Host **Jerry Hytry** had attempted to rent the Orlando Convention Center for the meeting, but the Orlando Magic basketball team had it reserved. As a backup the group was able to meet in the local Olive Garden restaurant. **Jerry** had prepared an outstanding meeting. **Bob Halstead** served as MC and **Bob Quilliam** was the featured speaker. He regaled the group with fishing stories from the Amazon where over the years he has caught Peacock Bass in excess of 20 lbs and unofficial world record piranha. An added feature was **Bill Frederick's** many stories from his days of mapping soils in MI. The meeting ended with a standing ovation from the audience of **Sue Halstead, Maxine Quilliam, and Irene Frederick**. Special thanks to those who sent notes and **Jerry** for serving as host. The weather was a balmy 78 degrees and sunny.

GEORGIA

George Norris, ARCSE Representative

Email: pikefarm@bellsouth.net

On an unseasonably warm 26th day of Jan., twenty retired Georgia NRCS and SCS retirees met for lunch in Athens, GA. Attending were **Jim & Judith Helm, Linda DiPietro, Bill White, Kitty Stevens, Edna Firor, Bob Oertel, Rick Main, Richard & Barbara Andersen, Edward Ealy, Bob Wilkes, Vivian Patten, Cecil & Gene Martin, Talbert Gerald, Gerald & Evelyn Sadler, and George & Ellen Norris**. The group welcomed its newest and youngest retiree, **Edward Ealy**. **Edward** retired in Dec. 2011 as State Soil Scientist in GA.

Senior Conservationist Bob Oertel, age 94, lined the group up for a photo session after lunch. **Bob** then mailed each of us a print of the picture of the group and sent a copy to **Owen Lee** for posting on the ARCSE web site. Watch for it. Your writer remembers attending SCS training sessions in photography and writing conducted by **Bob** in the 1960's. Thanks **Bob** and keep it up.

Vivian Patten told us that the first **E. John Patten, Jr.** Scholarship in Civil Engineering and Environmental Design at Georgia Tech, established in memory of her late husband, **John**, has been awarded. The recipient is **Taylor Callaway**, a junior who is maintaining a 3.68 GPA.

Jim & Judith Helm reported that their neighbor, friend, and fellow retiree **Jimmy Dean** is continuing to make progress following his terrible accident last June.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net

The list of retirees in Illinois has greatly increased at the end of 2011. Retiring recently are **Bill Gradle**, STC in Champaign; **Richard Hungerford**, SRC in Champaign; **Bob Jankowski**, DC in New Lenox; **David King**, RC&D Coordinator in Macomb; **Neal Koeller**, SC in Freeport; **Tony Korando**, DC in Marion; **Paul Krone**, DC in Watseka; **Kim St.John**, RC&D Coordinator in Henry; **Dale Smith**, SCT in Princeton; and **Terry Wachter**, Easement Specialist in Carbondale. We welcome you to the ranks of retirees and wish you the best in retirement.

A note about **Bill Gradle** really has to make one wonder. **Bill** attended our last gathering of retirees in Champaign in Oct. and now he retires. Could it be that **Bill** saw all the happy smiles on the retirees or maybe the comments about happiness and joy and freedom from the retirees or one of the other many benefits of retirement that he saw that helped him make his decision to retire! Glad to help, **Bill!**

We are also saddened to report that **Betty Craft**, wife of **Bob Craft**, passed away in Dec. We offer our condolences to Bob and her family.

A reminder that the next gathering in Champaign of SCS/NRCS retirees is April 5, 2012 at Ryans Steak House. Doors open at 11:00 and all are welcome.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Right after Christmas spring sprung in central Kansas. With temperatures in the 60's most days, we have been running around in light jackets most of Jan. and Feb. In Salina, spring flowers are popping out of the ground, the trees are budding, the birds are singing, and right now we are experiencing a spring-time thunderstorm complete with thunder, lightning, and hail. I believe Mother Nature is as confused as I am most of the time.

KS had eight new retirees at the end of the year. These included Soil Scientist, **James L. McDowell**, at the Salina State Office; Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, **William B. Gilliam**, at Emporia Area Office; Resource Conservationist, **Steve E. Brillhart**, at Hutchinson Area Office; Supervisory District Conservationist, **Debra J. Sumner**, at Paola Field Office, District Conservationist, **Clyde F. Mermis**, at Lawrence Field Office; Civil Engineer Technician, **John E. Gardner**, on Hutchinson Technical Staff headquartered at Lincoln Field Office; Soil Conservationist, **Steven C. Henningsen**, at Abilene Field Office; and Office Automation Assistant, **Denise M. Streeter**, at Manhattan Area Office.

After doctoring for a heart condition for a number of years, in Jan. **James McDowell** moved to Oklahoma City to await a heart transplant. He recently reached the point where medications and monitors were no longer sufficient treatment for him.

Several retirees have had joints replaced this winter. **Maurice (Mike) Ahern** is now well on the road to recovery from his knee replacement. In Jan., **Guy D. McClaskey**, had a knee replaced and has already been out and about for several weeks without the use of any walking aids. The week before Christmas **Connie J. Brax** (former State Office Secretary) twisted and broke a hip. After a couple of weeks of hospitalization she was moved to a rehabilitation center and in mid-Feb. was able to return to her own home.

Bill & De Roth spent the Thanksgiving holiday in New York City. They attended a Broadway show, took in a pro football game, visited the 9/11 Memorial, saw the Macy's parade, and experienced a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. Because of the crowds, **De** says it much better to watch the parade on TV in your own living room. They are planning a trip to TX in Feb.

Kansas retiree **Orville Love** (former Area Conservationist at Topeka) is now on an extended vacation until April with his son **Doug** and his daughter-in-law **Patty** in Bloomington, IL. He has enjoyed multiple visits by his grandchildren and great grandson since he arrived in Bloomington in mid-December.

His fall was made complete by the Cardinals making it to the World Series and winning in the 7th game. He is presently enjoying reading the news about spring training that his daughter **Janet** mails to him from St. Louis.

Sometime in April, he will be moving to the Kansas City area to live his daughter, **Sherry**, and his son-in-law, **Mike**, where he will celebrate his 95th birthday on April 27. Then he will have to decide if he wants to be a fan of the Royals or the Cardinals! He is looking forward to visiting family and friends in Kansas.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of several of our retirees and spouses who have passed away-**Arthur H. Holste, Zelma M. Dodge, Evelyn C. Linville, Mary I. Sorensen, Janice S. Eshelman, and Norma I. Droge.**

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative
Email: jim.wesoloski@gmail.com

As I write this, Feb. is nearly over. Our almost snowless winter is winding down and the maple syrup producers have taps in all their trees. The daffodils are beginning to poke their heads up and are wondering how the winter could have been so un-snowy and warm.

The retirement get-together for **Carl Gustafson, Nancy Sheard**, and **Paul Benjamin** brought out the usual suspects and a few unexpected ones too. I was pleased to see **Mark Grennan**, our former Pittsfield DC and **Rick Devergilio**, retired STC. **Rick** is working for the Cape Cod Conservation District leading the coastal wetlands restoration project. I also chatted with **Marc Macqueen**, retired RC& D Coordinator, who says he has not set foot in an NRCS office since his retirement and doesn't intend to break his record anytime soon.

Reversing **Marc's** situation **Nancy Sheard** and **Paul Benjamin** are back to work as engineering technicians in the ACES program after nearly a month of full-time retirement. I guess they couldn't stand the pressure of full-time retirement and decided to join me and **Steve Fischer** working with NRCS through the National Older Workers Career Center (Older being the operative word).

Jan. 27th was the day of our first retiree breakfast get-together held at the Route 9 Diner in Hadley. **Mark Zinan**, retired SAO, did yeoman's duty organizing the affair. **Mark** is also back at NRCS doing some administrative tasks.

I didn't make a list of the other attendees so I'll probably leave out someone. **Cecil Currin**, ARCSE Regional Vice President took some time off from peeling and packing butternut squash and sweet potatoes to join us. **Steve Fischer**, retired soil scientist; **Dave Nelson**, retired ASCE; and **Frank Wilda**, retired CO were also in attendance along with **Claudette Placzek**, retired budget specialist. **Jeff Anliker**, retired ASTC was also with us. By the time you read this you may be wanting some help with your income tax forms. – Say the magic word and I'm sure **Jeff** will find a way to squeeze your return into his busy schedule at Anliker Financial Services.

John Kick, retired ASTC is keeping busy with hiking the Holyoke range, attending yoga classes, being an Amherst town assessor, and continuing support for his favorite political candidates. **Rudy Chlanda**, retired geologist and **Doug Brown**, retired CO reported on their successful deer harvesting project. They had walked into the woods a little ways and **Doug** spotted his target, took careful aim, and downed a 150 pound buck. Oh, and even though the harvest took place only a few minutes into their expedition, it took them over three hours to dress and drag the critter back to the truck. **Rudy**, as is often the case, reported that he had a great time hunting but not harvesting..

All of the retirees I met indicated that the checks keep coming each month from OPM and even though they are on a fixed income they are scraping by somehow. Of course the fixed income was increased in Jan. Isn't it a wonderful country?

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

Email: moarscse@aol.com

I messed up last newsletter and failed to include some of the new retirees. Recent retirees include **Jeff Lamb, Lisa Ruller, Scott Patterson, and Sue Teson**. We welcome you all to our group.

We received news that retired Chariton County SCT **John Ownbey** passed away last September. **John** worked for NRCS for 30 years before retiring in Keytesville around 1993. **John** will be sadly missed by everyone that knew him.

The Springfield area retirees met on Jan. 19th and had a really fine gathering with 18 folks there. Much conversation and lots of happy birthdays of nonagenarians (look that one up!) and many longtime wedding anniversaries noted. **Wayne Weaver** spearheaded that. Those attending: **Mary Lou & Jim Andrews, Ken Benham, Jerry Cloyed, Laura Cowart, Jerry Dodd, Warren & Mary George, Al & Bonnie Hayter, Mary Louise Iger, Gary Sturdevant, Lena Thompson, Forrest Tindall, Kees & Alida VanderMeer, Wayne & Mary Weaver, and Claris Wildermuth**. (Thanks to **Mary Louise Iger** for contributing this.)

Lane Thurman says... nothing going on down here, just enjoying the mild winter up until today. It is turning really cold down here in the south. We do have a little RV trip planned for the first of March, going down to LA (as in Louisiana) to watch one of the grandsons play baseball in the Monroe, LA. area. He is from Belle Chase, is a senior in high school and the catcher of the team (an outstanding one, at that). He has made all state for three years in a row now. Last season he batted .467 and he has batted in the 400's ever since being a freshman. So going to see him play some more. He will be going to University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Steve Black and his wife, **Licia**, recently moved from IL to Phoenix, AZ to take advantage of the warmer winters. **Steve** had been operating his farm in IL since retiring in 2001. Their son and daughter also now live in Phoenix so everyone is close again for the first time in many years. **Steve** recently had lunch with **Ken McManus**, former STC in MO, who has lived in Sun City, AZ since retiring in 1981. **Steve** and **Ken** talked about hiring **Dave White** as a student trainee in the late 1970s when **Steve** was AC in Hannibal, MO and **Dave** being stationed at Paris, MO for his first training location. **Dave** became the Public Affairs Specialist in MO and then moved on to his other assignments that led him to being Chief of NRCS.

Jack & Linda Schneider spent the last two weeks of Jan. in Hawaii. We visited the islands of Hawaii (Big Island), Maui, and Oahu. Lots of things to see and do, and I would recommend a trip there for anyone. We were surprised how crowded the islands are and the great number of Asian visitors. But in spite of the traffic we managed our way around with the help of our Garmin. Great climate, beaches, scenery, and whales.

Jess Epple (from OK): J P Ranch hands now have a new Great-Grand daughter! Our Grand children, **James & Kari Hughes** of Columbia, MO are the proud parents of **Holland Hope Hughes**, born Jan. 2, 2012. **Jamie** had just completed a large grade-school, high-school basket ball tournament(s) in Columbia, Sedalia, and other schools when **Holland** decided she had waited long enough. It was not until she was born, before we knew what her name was. My daughter, a creative type, had been calling her future Grand-Child '**Lou, Lou**' because her son **Jamie** and daughter-in-law **Kari** just would not give up this information until **Lou, Lou** was born. I would like to have her on my 4-wheeler before too long and I am sure **Jamie** will want to have her playing with a basket ball as soon as possible. **Kari** will probably make the final decision about what activities **Holland** can participate in.....**Kari**, will take leave from Columbia Hospital to care for **Holland** and **Jamie** continues full-time employment with U.S.G.S. and also part-time jobs at Bass Pro, referee basket ball games, coordinating basket ball tournaments, and assists the church youth leader on Sundays. I can't understand why **Jamie** can't come to the ranch more often and help with some of the projects? The J. P. Ranch hands are already loading the 'ole ranch truck' and planning a trip to MO so we can spoil 'little **H. H. Hughes**'..... Here, at the ranch, we have had spring like weather until now--- the middle of Feb. This is fortunate for the ranchers because very few have adequate hay supplies. We will only have enough hay because we saved several pastures as 'standing hay' and the cows are now grazing it with the aid of high protein range meal..... *Remember, when you purchase 'Angus beef' in the meat market it is still a good value compared to other sources of protein. Eat beef in a responsible manner (talk to your Doctor) and you could be a more energetic, healthy, life loving, retiree.*

Jay Lingwall: Hi, we are back in FL until the first of May. **Leigh** started playing with the church praise band. They are very pleased to have her. I work with a group on mission Wednesdays helping people do things they cannot do on their own. We never know what the jobs are until that day and frequently they make you realize how fortunate you are. I'm still trying to run and am training with **Leigh** for a half marathon in March. We work in 2 - 3 fishing days a week and some days on the water are simply beautiful. Last

week I fished with my brother in the Florida Keys. It is hard for older brothers to acknowledge younger brothers outdoing them. I know he is planning to out-fish me this June in Ontario.....Our children and grandchildren are coming to visit us in March after the half marathon. This will be a great break from running.

Dennis Shirk: Good DAY, To All, We had a wonderful Christmas and New Years. All the family was here. Jan. was a very good month for winter riding, and we took advantage of it. We are well and thank GOD for that. See ya down the trail.

Quick rundown from **Doug Wallace** I sleep. I eat. I sleep. I read. I sleep. I eat. I forget?

Alan & Cheryl Wolfe traveled to Tampa, FL and spent a week visiting friends and seeing the sights. It was also a time to enjoy that warm FL weather, although the week they were gone, there were record highs here in MO.

Buck & Carolyn Burch are going to Las Vegas in late Feb. Will report any winnings in the next news letter.

Bill Pauls finished marathon #68 in Callaway Gardens, GA several weeks ago. That is a beautiful place. If you ever get a chance to visit there you should. It would be even prettier in the spring, summer, or fall. Next up on the 26.2 mile schedule is Nashville, TN April, 28th..... Oh by the way, I'm running for the 2nd Ward Columbia City Council Seat. The election is Tues., April 3rd. Thus I am a wee bit busier than I have been for the past 5 years of retiree bliss. Don't ask what got into me....it's just something I've always been interested in. No one else was running (at least not when I got in, 3 days before the petitions had to be delivered to the city clerk). Then 2 young gentlemen got into the race at the last minute.....After our 1st forum I think they are both well-intentioned, but I don't see how either of them have the time or the experience to do the job properly. Of course I DO!!! I'M RETIRED! I tell my constituents that I have much more time to spend on council business & I have lived north of I-70 for 25 years. The one young gentleman has been in town a total of 5 years. The other has 2 kids, another on the way, and runs a business in town. How do they have the time to be councilmen?? Oh well. I will work hard and I'm in it to Win it! & By gosh...people like me!... don't they?! We'll find out April 3rd. Oh by the way, I don't have much money so if you have a bunch just lying around not doing anything particular, send me some :) That's about it. Wish me luck.

Bob Ball is serving as the Executive Director for the Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri. In this capacity he also provides administrative support to

the Missouri Tree Farm System working closely with the American Tree Farm System and the American Forest Foundation.

Laura & Walter Cowart began a new life effective Aug. 27, 2011 with retirement....almost six months ago! We've NOT regretted it one day, especially with the ever changing policies of NRCS and the US Small Business Administration from which **Walter** retired after 35 years.....

Our first BIG adventure was a 13-day river cruise with "Viking Cruise Lines" that carried us from Amsterdam, the Netherlands to Budapest, Hungary. We began our trip with a couple of extra days in Amsterdam exploring the "Red Light District", as well as a visit to a Smoke Shop – very popular in Amsterdam! We also extended our stay by traveling to Prague in the Czech Republic before flying back home to the States. Overall, the adventure was fantastic, with great weather, a cruise that was perfect in every way. The ability to unpack one time for a 13-day 6 country tour was fantastic. The ship was just right with 148 passengers plus crew – all adults – all about our age! If anyone wishes to see any of the pictures, **Walter** has put together separate albums on our Picasa web-site – just send me your e-mail address. My e-mail address is Incowart@gmail.com. I know most people aren't really interested in other folk's pictures but you're invited to see them, if you wish..... Our next BIG adventure is off to China with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on March 19th. We are really looking forward to this trip and had no dreams of ever making this trip...it just worked out for us. We will be returning on March 29th...just two days before the newest addition to our family is due to arrive – Grandson Baby **Cowart**. This is the first **Cowart** grandbaby and one to carry on the **Cowart** name – very important to Grandpapa **Walter**.....Some of you know about my passion for Alabama Football and needless to say, Jan. 11th was a HUGE night for me with our National Championship win over LSU – 21 to ZERO!!!! I didn't miss one single second of this game. I recently saw a "Master Card" ad that summed it all up – "less miles with zero points" (this only means something if you're a college football fan). Hey you MIZZOU fans, welcome to the SEC!..... *Roll Tide!!*

With deer season behind us, **Keith Davis** has been working on some unfinished projects, a guest bedroom in our basement, and a shop behind our house. To acquire lumber for the shop, I have fired up my sawmill at the farm for the first time in five or six years. It's fulfilling to see a raw log milled into dimensional lumber. I've also finished my tax preparation and that of my mother for the first time this year. **Eunice** fills in as a substitute teacher one or two days a week at the school from which she

retired. We have travelled several times to Springfield to visit our kids and our grandchild. We have one, perhaps two new grandkids coming soon, to be adopted from an orphanage in the Congo.

Norm & Linda Klopfenstein went on a 7- day cruise to the western Caribbean the end of Jan. Highlights included warm beaches, friendly people, a boat ride down the Belize River to see Mayan ruins, and smooth sailing. They are headed to Ft. Lauderdale and Key West next month vacationing with **Pat McGrane** and wife **Janet**. **Pat** was **Norm's** counterpart in NE for many years.

Frank Miller reports he's just keeping his nose to the recovery path after hip replacement on Feb 7.

From **Jeff Lamb**: I'm still adjusting to the new lifestyle since retiring in Oct. but slowly getting the hang of it. My 2 and ½ year old granddaughter gets to spend a lot of time at our house and she and I have become rock throwing buddies on walks to a nearby creek. We have also been doing some remodeling of the kitchen in our house and are now ready to start on the bathrooms. I have been doing a lot canoeing and got to spend a week on the Current River w/friends in Oct. The mild winter has also allowed me to get out for several day trips on nearby rivers. Spending all this time on the rivers has prompted me to purchase a couple of extra canoes to add to my enjoyment. My wife and I got to take a trip to Cancun, Mexico recently and we really enjoyed it. It was our first time out of the country and we participated in an eco-adventure tour where we rappelled, zip lined, paddled a kayak, swam in a cave, and explored some Mayan ruins. Riding in a van and city bus and see how the Mexicans drive is an adventure in itself. This was also an eye opening experience to visit some small Mexican towns and see how the people there live. I still do some volunteer work on maintenance and planning of the Ozark Trail as I have for several years now. Overall, retirement is good!

MONTANA

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

Gordon Decker report: The Feb. breakfast included the **Remers, Ross's, Lohmillers, Nadwornicks, Hunters, Smiths, Springs, Johnsons, Van Haderlie, Ron Batchelor, Frank Schledorn, Bob Lund, and Gordon Decker**. **Liz Lohmiller** is doing really well after her spine/neck surgery, she showed pictures of all the metal rods, etc.. Everyone is doing well, enjoying the warm lack of snow winter, but everyone concerned about the lack of snow/moisture in the valley and the mountains.

We are doing typical winter chores, splitting wood, burning it and hauling out the ashes. Haven't used the snow plow yet this winter and only used the snow shovel a few times. Our snow fall has been 3 or 4 inches or less all winter.

We've seen some awesome high school basketball games with 2 grandkids on the varsity team and 1 on the freshman team.

James Johnson Report: **Senior Conservationist Pershing Vance** passed away on Jan. 10th at age 93. He was Assistant State Conservationist in Montana in the 1960's. His memorial service was held in the chapel at Aspen Pointe on January 17th. **Joan** and I, along with several other retired SCSers, were among those attending the memorial service. His entire obituary, as published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, is available on the Internet.

We were at the retiree breakfast on Feb. 1st. It was well attended with about twenty taking part.

Gooby Ranch Report: I look forward to the Super Bowl tailgate party every year. Super Bowl week finally came. **Mary Ann** worked all week getting hors d'oeuvres made and everything ready for our big tailgate party. **Mary Ann** had everything ready and set up in the yard except the TV which she will take out as soon as I get done watching my soap..

When we got up Super Bowl morning it was 20 degrees below zero and the wind blowing 40 miles an hour, plus it had snowed 6 inches during the night. **Mary Ann** let the tail gate down on the pickup and shoveled out the snow and got everything ready.

I put on four layers of clothes while **Mary Ann** took the TV out and plugged it into the extension cord and we were ready for the big tailgate party. I was sitting about 5 feet from the TV and the wind was blowing the snow so hard I could hardly see the screen. After about 10 minutes of freezing to death, not being able to see the TV and the hors d'oeuvres freezing faster than **Mary Ann** could thaw them out, she suggested we head for the house. I sure hated to leave the tailgate party since that is the most important part of the Super Bowl day. I even had two electric blankets wrapped around me but I was still freezing to death.

We headed to the house and **Mary Ann** got the TV hooked back up and she brought the hors d'oeuvres back in the house and thawed them out. But it was just not the same as being outside with everything on the tailgate and **Mary Ann** bringing me hors d'oeuvres while I watch the game. **Mary Ann** could see it was a real let down not having the tailgate party. But we had no choice.

Mary Ann said she had one more trip to make get the last of the tailgate stuff from outside and wanted me to open the door when she got back since her hands would be full. As soon as a commercial came on she headed out. The next thing I knew she came with the pickup tailgate. She sat it between two chairs by the TV and sat everything on the tail gate and we were back to having our tailgate party without having to freeze to death. **Mary Ann** is not only a good worker, she is creative as well.

NEBRASKA

Norman & Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives

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Chairman **Paul Smith** called the meeting to order. Twenty three retirees attended the first 2012 breakfast on Jan. 18th. Four people had perfect attendance at the monthly meetings in 2011 and received a free breakfast. They were **Lou Buller, Paul Smith, Jim Culver,** and **Joe Kuenning**.

There were two deaths in Dec., **Scott Argabright** and **Dick Hogue**. Both were employees of the Midwest NTC. **Scott** is survived by his wife **Dorothy**, and **Dick** by his wife **Betty**.

Dave & Sandy Langmeier spent Christmas in Austin, TX with their children and grandchildren. **Chris Chapman** spent the holidays in New Zealand with her children and grandchildren. The **Jim Harders'** visited family in Jacksonville, FL and attended a memorial service for her uncle.

Norm Kempf encouraged people to join ARCSE and to renew memberships if they were already members. Membership forms were handed out. He also informed the membership that the ARCSE newsletter will be coming by email in the future. Anyone who does not have an email address will get the newsletter by mail. Those that would prefer to get the newsletter by mail will have that option. He asked that current members be sure their email address is correctly printed in the last directory.

The last order of business was the passing of the gavel to the new president, **Dave Langemeier** and **Gary Muckel**, Vice Chairman.

The Feb. meeting was called to order by Chairman **Dave Langemeier** on Feb. 15th. The icy weather that had been predicted did not occur so there was a good crowd of 25 at the breakfast.

Henry Mount reported that his wife, **Ethel**, was doing much better now. **Virginia Adkins** will be having foot

surgery tomorrow. **Kay Westerman** reported that **Lyle** is also doing better - well enough that he could get to the basement to retrieve the chocolates he had bought her for a Valentine's present!

Joe Kuenning and his 90 year old brother went on a farm tour to IA and IL. Highlights included visiting a German Hausbarn at Manning, IA and the John Deere factory. **Mike & Maxine Stout** recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary, although **Maxine** stated that there wasn't a lot of celebrating going on! **Gary Muckel** has the April 18th banquet well in hand with a program set. He will be asking for volunteers to help at the banquet. The March breakfast will be at 7:30.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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On Feb. 23, twelve retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at the Farmers Market Restaurant for breakfast. This event takes place a couple times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Coy Garrett, John and Mildred Garrett, Charles Godley, Clara Raynor, Cecil Settle, Horace Smith, Rex Tracy,** and **Emmett Waller**. **John Garrett** made the arrangements for breakfast.

OREGON

Donald Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

The winter quarter retiree lunch was held on Jan. 25th at Tanasbourne The Old Spaghetti Factory. Twenty-seven braved the elements for a great turnout. Actually, it was a pretty nice day. Attending were: **Tom Curtis, Len & LaVonne Dugan, Gary Formanek, Tom Fujii, Dave & Joan Johnson, Jack Kanalz, Lowell & Marian Kenedy, Sara Magenheimer, Roy Mann, Jeff Repp** and **Maureen O'Rourke, Lamont & Karen Robbins, Leland Saele, Wendell & Jan Styner, Eldena Vanderzanden, Dick Verboort, Ralph Wadleigh, Don & Diana Wallin, Rene' Walls, Bill Woolcock,** and yours truly.

The group welcomed **Jeff Repp** for the first time as a retiree. **Sara Magenheimer**, NRCS Oregon's State Public Affairs Officer spoke on what she has as priorities for promoting the NRCS mission.

Retiree news is rather sparse for this cycle. However, both **Bill Hughey** and **Dick Kover** did report that they had colon surgery. **Dick's** was rather recent and **Bill's** some time ago. **Bill** went on to say that **Jean** now calls

him her semi-colon. Of course, that is much better than being a period which is kind of final.

The spring quarter retiree lunch will held on April 25th at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark Berkland, ARCSE Representative

Email: mberkland@homesc.com

Niles Glasgow reported: **Carl & Janet Bouchard**, our DE friends, visited **Carolyn** and me on February 9-11. **Carl** and I worked together in National Headquarters and reported for duty at the same time. Prior to visiting us in Columbia, **Carl** met with a group of Ag Engineers from across the country at Clemson University to develop the 2012 PE Exam for Agricultural Engineers. **Carl** has served on that group for a number of years. **Carolyn** and I gave **Carl & Janet** a tour of the Columbia area and caught up on family details.

The South Carolina ARCSE have a Spring luncheon that is being planned in Columbia and will be held in April. **Grady Adkins** and **Burt Wells** are making the arrangements. It makes all of us a little nervous having two retired State Engineers doing all that planning!!!!

Luke Nance reports that at the Horry S&WCD Banquet on Oct. 27, awards were given to three retired SCS/NRCSers. The Conservation Educator Award was given to former District Conservationist **Robert Squires**. **Robert** was a member of the original group which began the Horry County Conservation Foundation.

Alec Johnson was awarded the Conservation Service Award. **Alec** is a former District Conservationist for NRCS in Horry County, volunteered for two years as an agricultural advisor in Afghanistan, and has participated in several mission projects.

Luke Nance received the Conservation Citizenship Award for "a lifetime of conservation stewardship" **Luke** was planning engineer on the Watershed – River-Basin Planning Staff for 40 years and is an Earth Team Volunteer with the engineering staff in the State Office.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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

Thirty five members were present for the Dec. 16, 2011 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine & Bill Don Davis, Dorthy Green, Morris Lobrecht, Barbara Gillum, Joyce Petty, Arnold & Willeene King, Joe Nichols, Dave Stockbridge, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Jim & Jere Rickman, Bernelle Baxley, Bonnie McKee, Harland & Anita Dietz, Wes Fuchs, Dave Drennan, Tom Hodges, Don & Helen Shanklin, Dennis Erinakes, Dennis & Kathy Gaster, Mary Mattinson, Don Kapalka, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Alex & Faye Alexander, and Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh.**

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

Our slate of officers was installed after being sworn into office by **Dave Stockbridge** with the exception of **Don Newman** and **Phil Delucchi**, who will be sworn in later. **Dave** was selected for the honor due to his swearing skills. 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**. **Earl Blakley** was recognized as an unofficial office holder because of all the work he does for the club, setting up refreshments for every meeting, and his generous donations of poinsettias for every Christmas meeting.

Del Rockenbaugh handed out handmade Christmas decorations, which she takes the time to do every year, and are appreciated by all. **Dorthy Green** is still collecting material for our servicemen and would appreciate whatever you can donate. She has completed and mailed another 12 boxes this month.

Bonnie McGee visited **Hugo Bryan's** wife, **Marie**, who was in hospice. **Hugo** passed away in Jan. of 2011. **Note: Marie** passed away Jan. 5, 2012. The funeral services were on Jan. 9, 2012 at the Laurel Land Funeral Home. **Marie & Hugo** were long time members of the SCS-NRCS Alumni Club. **Marie** was born Nov. 3, 1922 in Houston. She married **Hugo** on Jan. 17, 1941 and they spent 69 wonderful years together before his passing. Her notice was published in the Star Telegram Jan. 8, 2012.

Marie Lane wrote: "Wishing all of my friends a very Happy Holiday. I miss all of you---still. I just got out of the hospital and Rehab Center after 2 1/2 months. I fell in the street up by our mailboxes. I cut my head

open in the back and had to have stitches. My family is all doing well. I now have 8 great-grandchildren, but they are all in WY and CO. My son (in Austin) came to the hospital every day. I was in three hospitals in Round Rock and Austin. They said I was on the verge of death but I am here and fighting to stay! **Marie**

We received the following note from **Nathan & Karen McCaleb**, "Thank you for sending us the Alumni News. It is a great way to keep up with former co-workers. We wanted to inform you that we have moved to MO to be closer to our children and grandchildren. We will still have the same e-mail address, but our new home address is: **Nathan and Karen McCaleb**, 35 Craftsman Drive, Camdenton, MO. 65020 Our phone number is 573-317-7840.

Lynn Kilpatrick changed his e-mail address in Dec. to NLK4462@hotmail.com.

This is an update on the condition of **Jeff Williams** – please keep him in your prayers: We took **Jeff** back to the oncologist yesterday to get the results of the last PET scan. The cancer cells in the stomach are the same...did not grow... But they found some very small spots in his neck lymph-nodes. The doctor could not feel them, so they will just keep an eye on them. They are talking about doing a nerve block to his stomach to try and stop some of the pain. Praises ... it has not grown. God is good! Love, **Freddie & DeWayne**

Glen Black sent the following note on Dec. 30th concerning his wife **LaVerne's** recent health reports. **Glen & LaVerne** have been members of our Alumni Club for many years and are active members of the State Alumni group that works hard to organize the State meeting in New Braunfels every year. **Glen** retired from the South National Technical Center in Fort Worth as the Associate Director in the 1980's. "Hello to all, Thanks to all of you who have voiced concern, both to us and to our Lord about **LaVerne's** health. **LaVerne** did have the PET scan on Wednesday and then we met with the oncologist today. The report was not a good one for us and certainly not one that we wanted to hear. The diagnosis is a Stage 3 cancer. The PET scan showed the larger mass, a smaller one and even a spot (too small to measure) in her lung (had it been only this diagnosis it would have been Stage 2. However, the scan showed lymph nodes around the trachea containing cancer cells making it a Stage 3. The follow-up will definitely include chemo and possibly radiation along with it. Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward to new areas in our lives. In God's care, **Glen Black**

We sadly recognize the passing of these colleagues: **Gilbert J. Bindel**, 76, of Gainesville, TX (retired as Area

Clerk at the Gainesville Area SCS Office) passed away on Dec. 11, 2011. **Emagene Haenisch**, wife of **Charles Haenisch**, of Floydada, TX passed away Jan. 3, 2012. **Charles** worked with SCS in many locations throughout TX. **Bob Thompson** passed away Jan. 11, 2012 in Auburn, AL. **Bob Thompson** was a retired engineer from Alabama who took **Bobby Reeves** place when he left Alabama to work at our NTC in Fort Worth.

Hazel G. Newman, 103, of Amarillo died Dec. 14, 2011. **Hazel** is the mother of **Don Newman**. **Mrs. Newman** was born Nov. 8, 1908, in Beaver County, OK. Survivors include her son, **Don** and wife **Berniece Newman** of Fort Worth; a daughter, **Janet Newman Hughes** of San Antonio; four grandchildren, **Mark (Janet) Newman** of Amarillo, **Karen (David) Pronger** of Burleson, **Scott (Maria) Hughes** and **Eric Hughes**, both of San Antonio; and eight great-grandchildren. **Hazel** contributed many of her beautiful quilts to our silent auction which proceeds went to the scholarship fund. She was a remarkable lady!

Elmer Ray McNair, 65, passed away Dec. 29, 2011. He worked as a mail clerk for the NRCS for 35 years. **Ray** married **Mary Massey** on June 24, 1985. **Elmer Ray** was a Baptist and a very caring person.

Twenty one members were present for the Jan. 20, 2012 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine Davis, Morris Lobrecht, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Jim & Jere Rickman, Bonnie McKee, Harland Dietz, Wes Fuchs, Dave Drennan, Dennis Erinakes, Dennis Gaster, Don Newman, Betty Sisson, Billy Teels, Anita Plummer, and Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh.**

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. Club business included a treasurer's report from **Elaine Davis**. **Don Newman** was sworn into office by **Dave Drennan** who struggled with the assignment, lacking the swearing skills of **David Stockbridge**. **Don** is our 2nd Vice President. **Dave Drennan** asked for volunteers to stay and audit the books and **Morris Lobrecht** and **Dennis Gaster** agreed to do it.

Cards were sent by **Del Rockenbaugh** to the families of the three SCS retirees that passed away in the past month. **Maxine Owen** activated the calling list one time during January. A motion was made by **Dave Stockbridge** that the club donate two fifty dollar bills to the SCS/NRCS retirees annual meeting silent auction. **Morris Lobrecht** seconded the motion and it carried.

Bernie Owen gave a timely program covering the changes and updates in the tax laws for tax returns due in 2011. **Dennis Erinakes** got back from a goose

hunting trip, and reported that the goose population is in good shape.

Dave Stockbridge gave an update on club member **Phil Delucchi**. At that time **Phil** was undergoing biopsies for some spots on his liver and lungs. **Dave** was concerned and asked members to please keep **Phil** in their prayers. Since **Dave's** report **Phil** has undergone more tests and received a second opinion, which agreed with the first diagnosis; that **Phil** has lung cancer, with spots on his liver and some bones. This type of cancer is not curable, chemo could help him to a point, however **Phil** elected to try an alternative treatment rather than chemo. Their daughter **Chris** had success with an alternative treatment and is helping them. **Marcia & Phil** are going to Huntington Beach, CA where **Phil** will begin treatment on Feb. 13, 2012. Both **Chris** and their other daughter, **Katy**, will visit them in Feb. A good way to keep up with **Phil** is to use a web site that is user friendly, "www.caringbridge.org/visit/phildelucchi". Both **Phil & Marcia** have postings that track **Phil's** progress.

Don Newman asked for any ideas for club programs. Please let him know if you know of a good program or have ideas. **Don** also said the date for the Texas SCS/NRCS Statewide Reunion is set for April 24-25, 2012. Put the date on your calendars and plan to attend. Donations for the raffle will be appreciated. The raffle proceeds fund much needed scholarships.

Many club members provided spit for an interesting project being done by a PhD candidate, and a question came up regarding the results of the study. **Dave Drennan** had requested that **Madeline** give us a presentation, but the meeting she was scheduled for was also when she had car trouble and had to cancel. **Dave** is going to contact her again to reschedule her program.

Betty Sisson reported on returning from a cruise along the coast of Italy, and was pleased to announce that the captain of her ship stayed sober. It was brought up that the crew of a less fortunate cruise ship that went aground is to appear on the Dr. Phil TV show.

Bill Blake has added an e-mail address to the directory: wbusker@comcast.net.

Betty Tefft wrote she has a change of address. She has moved to Trinity Terrace Retirement Home near downtown Fort Worth. Her new address is: 1600 Texas Street #1102, Fort Worth, TX 76102. She wrote: I am on the 11th floor and have a beautiful view of downtown Fort Worth. My apartment is very comfortable. The food is great, the people friendly and I love it. Also it is across from my church, 1st Presbyterian, so is convenient. I enjoy the newsletter and send my best regards to all!

Don & Sue Deal wrote **Elaine Davis**: "Thanks for keeping track of all this. Enjoy reading about the doings of the members. Please say "Hi" to everyone.

Phil Trew wrote: "This finds me spending my 3rd year in assisted living as a result of sugar diabetes and my World War II wounds. My location is the Courtyard in Fort Worth. This newsletter is my only source of contact and information. Thank you for providing this service. I was sorry to hear of **Don Newman's** mother's passing. At 101 she rendered a great deal to SCS and reared a good employee with **Don. Joan** is still very busy with her Williams-Trew Real Estate Company." **Phil** served as a Soil Scientist and Conservationist from Jan. 1951 to February 1962.

This was received from **Glen Black** regarding his wife, **LaVerne**: Thank you for your support and especially for your PRAYERS! Since late in Nov. we have been on the path of getting to the point of beginning treatment on the lung cancer in **LaVerne's** body, which was started today (this has been after a Cat scan, Pet scan and an MRI, and 3 different biopsies. She will have 2 more chemo treatments scheduled at 3 week intervals. Between the 2nd and 3rd chemo treatment, the radiologist will evaluate whether radiation can be done depending on the shrinking of the tumors. We have been over whelmed by the cards, e-mails, phone calls, and personal contacts received from so many -THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF LOVE, In HIS Love, **Glen Black**

Freddie Williams wrote on Feb. 9th: Just a note to let you know **Jeff** is getting shots to block the pain in his stomach today. Please pray that they work and he can be out of pain and able to eat. I'll keep you posted. Love, **Freddie**

Mike Woodson passed on **Allan Colwick's** report: "I learned today (Feb. 8th) that **Frank Sprague** had open heart surgery today starting at 5 AM at Providence Hospital in Waco. I was told that it was a valve replacement." **Mike** wrote on February 9th: I checked on **Frank** this afternoon. He seemed tired but alert. He will probably go home tomorrow.

This is the first month in a long time that no members have passed on. We are all thankful not to add to this list.

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
John Peterson, ARCSE Representative
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Neil Sampson sends, "I just finished reading **Claude Crowley's** book "The Day I Turned Green" and it is a delight. Anyone who started in an SCS field office in the 50's or 60's will immediately recognize the characters

in this fictionalized version of the adventures of a young SCS soil conservationist. **Claude** ended his career in the Ft. Worth Regional Office's Information section, as I remember. The book (Kindle version) can be found on Amazon.com."

Warren Lee says "**Barb's**" wrist is healing well. Another few weeks with a cast followed up by therapy. We spent a week in Virginia Beach with **Barb & Hershel Read** enjoying great seafood, lots of laughs, and many hands of cards. While there, **Dennie Burns** was in town and joined us for lunch.

Carl Bouchard reports, "I just got back from my annual trek to Clemson and NCEES for the preparation of the Agricultural Engineering Professional Engineering exams. The number of new Ag Eng exam takers was down this past 2010 fall and, for some reason or other, the pass rate of the 13 first time test takers was only 30 percent. This compares to 39 first time test takers and a 77 percent pass rate in the fall of 2009. I hope that is not a reflection of the education our students as they graduate from Universities since we take care of equalizing each exam so that the difficulty level does not vary from exam to exam. The exam is given in October of each year and is a national exam. While there, we had the opportunity to visit with **Jim Krider** and also visited with **Niles & Carolyn Glasgow** in Columbia on our way back. All are doing good and it is a pleasure in any of our travels to visit old friends and colleagues. We rounded our excursion out by spending 5 days at our timeshare in Williamsburg. Talk about a rude awakening as we came back on the south side of the James River to take the ferry at Surry and as we got on the ferry, winds came up and blowing snow started, making for an interesting crossing on the James. Fortunately, the snow melted the next day but not until my car looked like I had been driving on the snow and salt covered roads of a Northern state." Thanks for the note, **Carl**.

Blanche Peterson had her second hip-replacement surgery on Feb. 15th. She was moved into a rehabilitation center on the 19th, and will be there about 4 weeks. The surgery went well, and she is walking using a walker. Hopefully this will be the last of a number of joint replacements she has undergone in the last few years. **John** is coping. He says cooking in a kitchen is a lot harder than on an open fire at the fishing camp.

I received this note from **Mary Ann & Gary Margheim** as they know of **Blanche's** surgery. Glad to hear that **Blanche's** surgery went OK. I did talk to her about three weeks ago and she told me about the surgery. Hopefully, we can get up to see her at the rehab center. Maybe **Gary** would like to put me in there also. Broke my arm the first of Dec. After 8 weeks it had

not healed so I had to have surgery a week ago, they put in two plates and screws. I am getting pretty good at doing things left handed. **Gary** had to have some more heart surgery, so hopefully, when Spring arrives, we both will be on the mend. What happened to the Golden Years??? Sounds like you are on the go and keeping busy. Oh yes, were you at the George Mason game with VUC??? Watched every minute on TV. As you can tell I have been watching a lot of basketball and love every minute of it. Yes, I am a crazy woman and love sports. Take care and give your wife our love and prayers." And yes, **Margheim's**, I was at the GMU-VCU game. What a finish.

Rachel Hollins & husband George took a Southern Caribbean cruise February 6-18. Early in the cruise **Rachel** noticed someone that seemed very familiar, but took a few days to actually approach **Lee Shields** & his wife. One morning we talked from breakfast until lunch remembering co-workers. **Lee** told me that **Paul Newcombe** was also on the cruise. I saw him at a Veteran's gathering and we talked a few minutes. It was a mini-SCS reunion. Coincidentally, **Lee, Paul & I** were actually seated within a few tables of each other for dinner. What a great story. Thanks, **Rachel**.

WISCONSIN

Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on Feb. 9, 2012 at Grandma Mary's Cafe in Arena, WI. **Georgene Hausner** and **Betty Stibbe** were the gracious hosts. Those in attendance included **Tom Thall, Jim Enlow, Howard Gundlach, John & Joanne Baker**, and **Bill & Virginia Conner** - Madison; **Mike Lieurance** - Lancaster; **Betty Stibbe** and **Keith & Dottie Behling** - Richland Center; **Georgene Hausner** - Spring Green; **John & Jean Milligan** - Middleton; **Gene & Ann Nimmer** - Beaver Dam; **Stan & Marlene Dingle** - Verona; **Ted Manning** - Lodi; **Mark Wienkes** - Sparta; **Dan Lynch** - Saukville; **Dan Cotter** - Darlington; and **Jim Kaap** - Stoughton.

Retirees told of their recent travels, vacation plans and retirement activities. Many are volunteering their time to worthy organizations. **Dottie Behling** told the group about a project she is chairing and volunteering her time. It is called the Comfort Pillow Project. The project has many women volunteering to make comfort pillows for cancer patients. It is funded by the Rotary Club of Richland Center. It has been very successful and well received. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and food.

The next luncheon is scheduled for April 12 at Fitzgeralds Restaurant in Middleton, WI.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

New email address:

Rachel Hollins - rhollins@hughes.net

NOTES

Carl DuPoldt sent a copy of an article from Time.com about Europe's deep freeze. The article describes a number of aspects about climate change which make for interesting reading and discussion. Contact **Carl** if you would like to read it and can't find it on time.com. His email is cdupoldt@netscape.net.

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:

Simeon L. Bell, GA

Richard W. ("Dick") Birchmier, IA

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.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler

Senior Conservationist Maurice "Mike" Stout was born in Winchester, OH. **Mike's** family later moved to Hillsboro, OH. (Hillsboro is about 50 miles east Cincinnati.) He graduated from high school there and began studies at The Ohio State University in 1942. In 1943 he entered the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific as part of the 4th Marine Air Wing. He was initially based on Samoa, but moved northward as the war progressed to the Marshall Islands where he was rotated to stateside in January 1945.. **Mike** saw duty from February 1943 through October 1945. Upon his return home he married and renewed his university studies. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Agriculture with a soils major and an economics minor).

After graduation in 1948, **Mike** was hired by the Soil Conservation Service as Area Soil Scientist in Hillsboro, OH, where he was promoted to Supervisory Soil Scientist in May 1953. His next position was Field Specialist (Soils) at Salina, KS in mid-1957. Two years later he was made Assistant State Soil Scientist for KS. About 8 months later **Mike** took the same position for the state of Texas and relocated to Temple. In September 1963 he was promoted to State Soil Scientist for SD at Huron; he held that position until January 1971 when he was promoted to Assistant Principal Soil Correlator at the Midwest Technical Service Center at Lincoln, NE.

In August 1972 **Mike** was promoted to head of the Soil Correlation Staff as Principal Soil Correlator and worked in that job until 1982 when he was tapped to be Director of the Midwest National Technical Service Center. **Mike** retired in January 1987 having served with distinction in all his work with SCS. During his career **Mike** received 12 Certificates of Merit for his individual work and was part of that honor when the Soil Correlation Staff received that award in 1977.

Mike and his wife **Maxine** have remained in Lincoln following his retirement. They have 5 sons, a daughter, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On February 4th of this year, **Mike & Maxine** celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. (Their acquaintance is longer; they have known each other since the second grade.) In retirement **Mike** has been involved with Meals on Wheels, his Neighborhood Watch, and other volunteer opportunities. His hobbies are traveling, fishing, duck carving, and "keeping up with family". **Mike** writes that he continues to "...enjoy and appreciate the continued contact with former SCS'ers through retiree meetings, ad hoc coffees, and through the retiree newsletter."

IN MEMORIAM

Senior Conservationist R. Clyde Pleasants (102) of Raleigh, NC, passed away on Jan. 6, 2012. In 1933, he was one of three students to graduate from North Carolina State College with a degree in soils. **Clyde** began his conservation career with the Soil Erosion Service (SES) soon after graduation. His first assignment was in Newland, NC, as a Soil Surveyor making a general soil survey of Avery County. In 1934 he transferred to the Deep River Soil Erosion Demonstration Project located in High Point. Deep River was used as a training site for all of the new SES employees. During his early career he was assigned to several demonstration projects, and his job was to provide a soil survey for the farms being planned. Usually two – three Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps were assigned to assist with the work in the demonstration projects. When he was assigned to the Brown Creek Demonstration Project, he passed the home place of **Hugh Hammond Bennett** almost every day on his way to map soils. In 1945 he transferred to the Raleigh Area Office as the Area Soil Scientist where he worked until his retirement in 1969 after 36 years of service. **Clyde** was preceded in death by his loving wife of 68 years, **Ruby Lee Pleasants**. He is survived by his daughter, **Barbara P. (Frank) Pollock** of Roxboro, NC; two sons, **Dr. Riley C. (Mickey) Pleasants, Jr.** of Raleigh, and **Robert W. (Peggy) Pleasants** of Raleigh. He is also survived by six granddaughters and thirteen great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hayes Barton Baptist Church Building Fund, 1800 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

Marie Bryan (89) of Fort Worth, TX passed away on Jan. 5, 2012. She married **Victor Hugo Bryan, Jr.** on Jan. 17, 1941 and they spent 69 wonderful years together before his passing at age 88 on Jan. 26, 2010. **Hugo** retired from the SCS in Fort Worth. Survivors include three children, nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Memorials: Any Alzheimer's Foundation or a charity of choice.

Gilbert J. Bindel (76) of Gainesville, TX passed away on Dec. 11, 2011. After serving in the United States Army, he attended Cooke County Junior College and North Texas College. He retired from SCS in 1984 as the Area Clerk at the Gainesville Area Office. Survivors include his wife Joyce of Gainesville; a daughter, a stepdaughter, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Emagene Haenisch, (88) of Floydada, TX passed away on Jan. 3, 2012. Her husband of 65 years, **Senior Conservationist Charles Haenisch**, worked with SCS in many locations throughout Texas, retiring in 1983 as an area conservationist. She graduated from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX. **Emagene's** first love was her family. Second to that was her love for teaching. **Emagene** is survived by her husband **Charles** of the home, two children, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be made to Hospice Hands of West Texas in Lockney.

William R. "Bob" Thompson, Jr. (70) of Auburn, AL passed away on Jan. 11, 2012 at East Alabama Medical Center. After graduating from Auburn University and serving four years in the U.S. Army, Bob started his career with the USDA SCS. He retired as Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources in 1994 and started Crossroads Furniture Refinishing. **Bob** was a member of Auburn United Methodist Church, a volunteer at EAMC Cancer Center, and a board member of Mercy Medical. He is survived by his wife, **Judy Thompson** of Auburn; son, **Robert (Susan) Thompson** of Montgomery; three daughters, **Amy Elizabeth (Dean) Kaye** of Warrenton, VA, **Beth (Bob) Palmer** of Marietta, GA, and **Shannon (Mike) Buice** of Duluth, GA; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, memorials be directed to Mercy Medical, Catherine Court, Auburn, AL, or East Alabama Medical Center Cancer Center.

Charles E. Stearns (80) of Redman, OR passed away on Dec. 31, 2011, from complications of Parkinson's Disease and dementia. His father, **Lyle**, died when **Ed** was about 18 months old and his mother, **Alice**, raised **Ed** by herself. She died in 1994. **Ed** served in the U.S. Army from 1953 until 1955 and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve in 1961. He went on to become the first member of his family to attend college. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington State University in 1959 and Master of Science degree in geology from the University of Oregon in 1962. After starting with the SCS in 1962 in Portland, he later worked for the agency in Berkeley, CA, then Davis, CA, where he eventually became the agency's state geologist for California. He relocated to Portland in 1978, becoming engineering geologist for the 13 western states, Samoa, and Guam. His geology work also took him to Saipan and Chile and to the flanks of Mount St. Helens in April 1980, just five weeks before it erupted. He retired in 1994. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Betty**; his son, **John**; his grandson, **Jack**; and his daughter-in-law, **Susan**. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Partners In Care Hospice, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend, OR 97701.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist Arthur Herman Holste (90) of Redding, CA passed away on March 25, 2011. **Arthur** was born on a farm in Ludell, KS and served as a civil engineer in SCS Hays Area Office, retiring in 1982. He was a man of strong faith, gentle heart, quiet guidance and a wonderful dad. **Arthur** and his wife, **Doris**, were married in 1947 when he returned from serving in the US Army in the Philippines where he was awarded a Purple Heart.

Elmer Ray McNair (65) of Fort Worth, TX passed away on Dec. 29, 2011. He worked as a mail clerk for the NRCS for 35 years. **Elmer Ray** was a Baptist and a very caring person. Survivors: Wife of 27 years, **Mary Massey McNair**, stepdaughter, **Janie (Mike) Davis**, two grandsons and their wives; four great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter.

Lester A. (Les) McKenzie (84) of Elko, NV passed away on Aug. 31, 2011. Except for service with the US Army Air Corps just after World War II his whole life was involved with rangelands, conservation, land use, and production agriculture. It began July 23, 1927, at the Mahoney Ranger Station in Jarbidge, NV where his parents **Lewis (Ed)** and **Esther (Womack) McKenzie** lived while **Ed** worked for the US Forest Service. After his studies at Utah State in Logan were interrupted by the military, **Les** returned to studies at the University of Nevada and graduated in 1950. He worked for the SCS in NV at Mountain City, Elko, Ely, and in Cedarville, CA until 1973 when he retired and became the Modoc County planner in Alturas, CA. In 1979 he and his wife **Marian** moved back to Elko County and formed HTT Enterprises. They bred and raised quality horses. **Lester** was a pioneer in developing computer assisted methods for rangeland evaluation and monitoring and coauthored the first NV Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. **Les** was active in the American Society of Range Management (now SRM) for 61 years and received numerous awards from the NV Section including Rangeman of the Year. **Les** will be greatly missed by **Marian**, his bride of 56 years; daughters **Wynarda, Bonnie, Wanda, and Pat**; sons **Edward** and **Paul**; 11 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Memorial contributions are suggested for the NV Section SRM Endowment Fund c/o Erica Freese, 8905 Little Creek Road, Reno, NV 89508.

William "Bill" J. Richmond (86) of Milwaukie, OR passed away on Feb. 3, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Marcine** who retired from the SCS; his children, **Dick Richmond, Joe Richmond, Terry Sion, and Renee Peck**; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his former wife, **Kay**; and grandson **Christopher Richmond**. Memorial donations may be made to Milwaukie Covenant Church.

Mary Irene Hope Sorensen (84) of Ness City, KS passed away on Jan. 16, 2012. After graduating from Hutchinson Junior College, she received a degree in home economics from Kansas State College (now University) in 1948. She was an elementary teacher at the Ness City Grade School for seventeen years. She loved music, was an accomplished violin player, and taught violin lessons. She was active in numerous community activities. **Mary** was preceded in death by her first child, a boy, who was stillborn. She is survived by her husband of nearly 62 years, **Bill** (who retired in 1984 as a district conservationist with SCS) and her children, **William Sorensen, Jr. (Lou Anne), Susan Mallon (Mike), Diane Worth (Paul)**, four granddaughters, and one grandson. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ness City United Methodist Church, the Ness City Library, or Hospice of the Prairie.

Forrest E. McClung (89) of Pryor, OK passed away on Dec. 30, 2011. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was injured in a flying accident. After the war he attended Oklahoma State University graduating with a degree in Agriculture Engineering. **Forrest** worked for the USDA SCS designing and building water detention structures and flood control projects up and down the eastern side of OK, retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Louise** and three children; **Dana Lee (Jim) DeBoard, Diana Sue (Hugh) Coats, and Del Wayne (Paula) McClung**; five grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers please send memorials to the Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home, Box 1056, Hugo, OK 74743.

Sonoya Jean Toya (90) of Boring, OR passed away on Feb. 9, 2012. **Sonoya** attended Gonzaga University and married **George Toya** in 1945 in Fort Snelling, MN. They had two daughters, **Georgene "Gigi"** and **Evelyn**, and lived in Gresham for over 60 years. **Sonoya** was devoted to her family and an active church member. **Sonoya** retired from SCS as a secretary to the engineering staff at the WNTC.

James Melvin Williams (94) of Portland, OR passed away on Feb. 2, 2012. He was born in ID and raised on a farm in Milton-Freewater. He graduated from Oregon State and retired as a soil scientist with the SCS at the WNTC. **Mel** was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, **Gen**, and his son, **James Williams**. He is survived by son, **Michael Williams** of Portland.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Evelyn "Christine" Linville (80) of Pleasanton, KS, passed away on Jan. 8, 2012. **Evelyn** was the wife of **Richard E. Linville** who retired as a soil conservation technician in the Colby Field Office in June 1978. He preceded **Evelyn** in death. She is survived by four sons and two daughters from an earlier marriage, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Hanson J. "Duke" Kennedy (62) of Philippi, WV passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 12, 2011. He is survived by his mother **Beulah Mae (Croston) Kennedy Adams** and his wife of 41 years, the former **Alma Lee (Amanda) Kennedy**, Slovan, PA; and four grandchildren. **Duke** was a 1967 graduate of Philip Barbour High School and had attended Fairmont State College. He retired as a civil engineering technician from the USDA SCS.

Life Member **Keith Kline Young** (82) of Annandale, VA passed away suddenly on Feb. 9, 2012 after suffering a head injury from a fall in his workshop on Feb. 8. **Keith** graduated from University of Nebraska with a BS degree in '51 and a MSA in Agriculture Economics in '58. He came to the SCS National Headquarters in Washington, DC as Assistant Director, Soil Survey Interpretations Division in '71. He received a special achievement award in 1985 for excellent leadership in developing the definition and classification of wetland soils. He retired in 1986 after 34 years of federal service. After retirement **Keith** became a well known local musician and builder of Appalachian musical instruments (dulcimers, autoharps, fretless banjos). He founded the Mill Run Dulcimer band, the Greater Washington Dulcimer Disorganization, and taught hundreds of students to play the Dulcimer. **Keith** is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Mary M. Young** as well as six children, **Duane, David (Katie), Scott, Phillip, Barbara (John) Risucci, Elizabeth (Dixon) Appel**, 14 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Washington Regional Transplant Community or the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department.

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Pershing Vance (93) of Bozeman, MT passed away on Jan. 10, 2012. He was a range conservationist with the SCS and served as Assistant State Conservationist in MT and NE, retiring in 1973. **Persh** received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Range Management in 1941 from the University of Idaho at Moscow. On July 20, 1941, **Persh** married **Barbara Eloise Kenagy "Barb"** and they honeymooned in a lookout tower in the Payette National Forest while he was working for the U.S. Forest Service. During World War II, **Persh** joined the U.S. Army Air Corps for the duration of the war, was commissioned a lieutenant, and was trained as a bombardier until the end of the war. **Persh** worked on the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project which opened the fertile basin to irrigated farming. He accepted an overseas assignment to India from 1968 to 1972. He also spent several years working for the Near East Foundation, acting as a temporary Secretary of Agriculture in Lesotho, Africa, helping the Basotho people learn to conserve their rapidly eroding top-soil. From 1977 to 1979, he and **Barbara** lived in Arusha, Tanzania, where he helped the semi-nomadic Masai Tribe improve their grazing land and livestock quality. **Persh** is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Barbara Vance** of Bozeman; three sons, **Captain Michael (Kanako) Vance**, USN Ret. of Bozeman; **Dr. Corwin (Karen) Vance** of Shorewood, MN; and **Richard (Shirley) Vance** of Richland, WA; six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Janice Surae Friesen Eshelman (66) of Harper, KS passed away on Jan. 23, 2012 at her home in Harper, KS after a fierce battle with cancer over the past three years. She attended Tonkawa College from 1963 to 1964. **Jan** retired from the SCS Sunflower RC & D office where she was a secretary and office automation assistant, a job she held for 31 years. **Jan** loved horses and became active with anything pertaining to them for many years—riding, clubs, shows, fair, and the Kansas Western Horseman's Association. **Jan** will be deeply missed by her husband, **David Eshelman**; her son **Marty (Lori) Eshelman**, all of Harper; her mother, **Viola Friesen** of Medford, OK; and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Harper Kiddie Barn, KWHA Scholarship, or the Cancer Center of Kansas in Kingman.

Norma Irene Droge (82) of Council Grove, KS, passed away on Jan. 28, 2012. **Norma** is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Harry Droge**, who retired in 1988 as a Construction Inspector for SCS at Strong City Project Office. Other survivors include sons, **James (Diane) Droge** of Broken Arrow, OK, **David (Joyce) Droge** of Lawrence, KS and **Daniel (Kim) Droge** of Manhattan, KS; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Pleasant Ridge Christian Church, c/o Penwell-Gabel, PO Box 273, Council Grove, KS 66846.

Zelma Marie Dodge (94) of Manhattan, KS passed away Dec. 09, 2011. **Zelma** was the wife of **Darold A. Dodge** who passed away on Dec. 17, 2008. He retired in April 1983 as a soil scientist at Great Bend, KS. **Zelma** received a bachelor's degree in Micro-Biology from Kansas State University and a teaching certificate from Emporia State University. **Zelma** is survived by six daughters, ten grandsons, five granddaughters, and four great grandchildren. The family requests donations to Good Samaritan Fund at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community, 2121 Meadowlark Rd. Manhattan, KS 66502.

John Ward Ownbey (86) of Gladstone, MO, passed away on Sept. 14, 2011. He served in the US Army from 1955-1958. He retired from the USDA SCS after 30 years of service as a soil conservation technician. **John** is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Evelyn** and daughters, **Sonjya Ownbey** and **Arletta Ownbey**, both of Gladstone.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Jack Paul Clayton (80) of Chickasha, OK passed away on Feb. 20, 2012. He served in the United States Air Force where he was an aircraft mechanic in the Korean War. **Jack** attended the University of Oklahoma on the G.I. Bill earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. He retired from the SCS as a geologist at the Chickasha Watershed Office. He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, **Vicki Clayton**, in 2002. Survivors include: Daughter: **Lisa Clayton** and husband **Jeff Kemp**; daughter: **Celia Clayton Lowry** and husband **Greg Lowry**; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, American Heart Association, or the Epworth United Methodist Church.

John Ward Ownbey (86) of Gladstone, MO, passed away on Sept. 14, 2011. He served in the US Army from 1955-1958. He retired from the USDA SCS after 30 years of service as a soil conservation technician. **John** is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Evelyn** and daughters, **Sonjya Ownbey** and **Arletta Ownbey**, both of Gladstone.

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 Rev. Richard Jennings Wriston (87) of Scarbo, WV passed away on March 5, 2002. He studied forestry at the University of Idaho. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1942 to 1945 building roads, docks, bridges, hospital units, and fuel storage sites in New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea, and the Philippines. He worked for the Fayette County office of the SCS from 1948 to 1974. After retirement, he became an honorary minister with the United Methodist Church and pastored at several churches and charges. He also worked as a water plant operator for the Mossy Public Service District for 11 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Mary Ashtoreth Stevens Wriston**, and two grandchildren. Survivors include two daughters, two sons, and five grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Charles V. Wright (94) of Van Horn, TX passed away on Dec. 7, 2008. **Charles** retired in 1974 as a soil conservation technician with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Cyril M. Jacot (84) of Caro, MI passed away on Feb. 13, 1999. He retired in 1975 as a district conservationist with the SCS. **Cyril** served as a Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II.

Senior Conservationist Richard G. Dillon (91) of Jensen Beach, FL passed away on July 5, 2005. He retired in 1963 as a district conservationist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Richard Cline Kinzie (90) of Marion, VA passed away on June 27, 2004. He retired in 1977 from the SCS as an area conservationist. Survivors include his wife, **Rosa Wagoner Kinzie**; son, **Richard C. Kinzie Jr.**; daughter, **Barbara Susan Kinzie**; and six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Allan S. Payne (89) of Lakeport, CA passed away on Aug. 6, 2003. **Allan** was an engineer with the SCS and retired in 1977 as Chief of the Design Branch.

Senior Conservationist Charles (Chuck) Matthew Schumacher (91) of Huron, SD passed away on Oct. 25, 2005. When his mother died shortly after his birth and his father went to war, **Charles** was raised by 3 maiden aunts until he graduated from Orleans High School in 1932. Inspired and perplexed by the prairie dust storms of his Depression-Era childhood, he chose to study forestry and, upon graduation from Iowa State University in 1939, he joined the USDA SCS. In 1942, Charles enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve where he honorably served during World War II in the South Pacific Theater, surviving Okinawa and returning home in 1945, later retiring with the rank of Major. In 1964, **Charles** settled in Huron where he retired in 1979 as the State Range Conservationist, leaving SCS after 40 years of service and having worked in OK, TX, and NE. **Chuck** (as his colleagues knew him) helped hundreds of ranchers throughout the Great Plains to improve their rangeland resources. He created original range site descriptions which are still in use today by government agencies, universities, and ranchers. And as an advocate of all things indigenous, he was an expert in native grasses, writing many range publications, technical guides, and training materials. In 1991, the Society of Range Management presented him with their national Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award. He also was an avid reader and a Cornhusker fan. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Rosemary** of Huron; and one son, **Frank Schumacher** of Huron. He was preceded by one infant son, **Charles James Schumacher** in 1941.

Senior Conservationist Robert W. Thompson (89) of Albion, MI passed away on Oct. 5, 2004. He was a work unit conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1975.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist Elizabeth D. Tinley (87) of Milledgeville, GA passed away on Jan. 12, 2002. She was an area clerk with the SCS, retiring in 1973.

Senior Conservationist Donald McEathron (84) of Bruce, WI passed away on Feb. 10, 1999. **Donald** was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1979. He had five children.

Senior Conservationist John W. Millar (88) of Athens, OH passed away on Jan. 12, 2004. **John** was a district conservationist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Addison C. Moore (89) of Chatham, VA passed away on Oct. 9, 2005. **Addison** was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1983.

Senior Conservationist Harvey V. Strelow (86) of Wausau, WI passed away on June 1, 2002. His wife of 54 years, **Doris**, preceded him in death in 1998. He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps in order to go to college, graduating from the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he studied with Aldo Leopold. During World War II he was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps working as a navigation instructor in TX. He worked as a soil scientist for the SCS throughout WI for 30 years, retiring in 1972. He is survived by a son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Senior Conservationist Charles F. Wharton (89) of Moore, SC passed away on March 4, 2006. He was a soil scientist with the SCS.

Senior Conservationist Travis R. Taylor (92) of Tupelo, MS passed away on Oct. 3, 2008. He was a conservationist and an agronomist with the SCS, retiring as an area conservationist in 1979.

Senior Conservationist Jacob A. Stasek (89) of Milwaukee, WI passed away on Nov. 28, 2005. **Jacob** graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in engineering from Marquette University. He was the state design engineer with the SCS when he retired in 1972.

Senior Conservationist Rudolph Ulrich (88) of Pleasant Hill, CA passed away on Dec. 28, 2004. He was a soil scientist with the SCS, retiring in 1971.

Senior Conservationist Orville L. Beachler (85) of Hillsdale, MI passed away on July 24, 2002. He was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1979.

Senior Conservationist Howard Blake Johnston (91) of Kissimmee, FL passed away on Feb. 18, 2008. He was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1978. **Blake** was born near Brandon, Manitoba, Canada and his family moved to Kissimmee in 1920. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1938 with a degree in vocational agriculture and in 1946 with a Master of Science degree in soil science. He taught vo-ag, science, and math at different times from 1938 to 1948. **Blake** served in the U.S. Army during World War II. **Blake** was stationed out of Allied Force Headquarters for the Mediterranean theater in Algiers, North Africa, and later out of Naples, Italy. Among his duties, he served as a courier between Algiers and Italy with trips to Greece and France as well. In 1948 he went to work with the SCS. In 1956 he purchased a citrus grove from his grandfather. **Blake** was preceded in death by his wife **Mildred**. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

Senior Conservationist Jerome F. Fritz (87) of Lake Havasu City, AZ passed away on Aug. 20, 2004. He was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1979.

Senior Conservationist **Frank Pennebaker** (91) of Eureka, Kansas passed away on June 13, 2009. He was a soil conservation technician with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1980. Survivors include a son, **Keith Wayne Pennebaker**; daughters, **Karen Wiley** and **Myrna Chambers**; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Rudolph W. Mayko (92) of Coupeville, WA passed away on Feb. 16, 2011. He was the assistant state soil scientist with the SCS when he retired in 1979.

Senior Conservationist Raymond W. Heinen (83) of Silver Spring, MD passed away on Jan. 18, 2002. He was an information specialist with the SCS and became Assistant to the Administrator in 1951. He retired in 1973. He was preceded in death by his wife, **June E. Heinen**. Surviving are sons **Ken** and **Jim Heinen**; and five grandchildren.

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IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Senior Conservationist George M. Danielson (90) of Lander, WY passed away on July 3, 2009. He was an area conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1974 as the Assistant State Conservationist.

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Eugene (Gene) C. Youngman (91) of Vancouver, WA passed away on Aug. 3, 2010. He was born in Valley, NE, served in the Navy during WW II, and worked as a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1977 as a district conservationist. His wife of 57 years, **Miriam**, died in 2002. He is survived by sons **Dwight** and **Curt** of NE, **Steve** of NM and daughter **Amy Rich** of Vancouver; nine grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Senior Conservationist Russell J. Sykes (86) of Bend, OR passed away on Nov. 4, 2005. He was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1980.

Senior Conservationist Harlan S. Steffan (86) of Midland, MI passed away on May 24, 2006. He was an engineering technician with the SCS, retiring in 1976. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, receiving the Navy Cross.

Senior Conservationist Dan Isgrig (83) of Fredericksburg, VA passed away on July 16, 2003. He was a soil scientist with the SCS in KY, CA, and VA, retiring in 1980 with more than 30 years of service. **Dan** and his wife donated a significant collection of arrowheads, grindstones, and spear points (over 1500 relics that he had collected) to the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He served his country as a World War II B-26 bomber pilot with the Army Air Corps base in England. On Jan. 14, 1944 his plane was shot down over Germany where he spent the remainder of the war as a POW. After his release, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired from the Air Force Reserves as a major. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Mary Elizabeth**, and two sons. He was preceded in death by a son and a daughter.

Senior Conservationist Wayne M. Hypes (86) of Staunton, VA passed away on June 9, 2005. He was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring (or otherwise left the agency) in 1960.

Senior Conservationist Frederic Earl Collison (85) of Carmel, CA passed away on Oct. 27, 2006. He was an area conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1976.

Senior Conservationist Vernon C. Berry (85) of Lebanon, TN passed away on Oct. 30, 2006. He was a district conservationist with the SCS, retiring in 1984.

Senior Conservationist Edwin J. Bender (92) of Chaska, MN passed away on Nov. 6, 1999. He was a soil conservation technician with the SCS, retiring in 1966. He served in the United States Army Sixth Infantry Division during World War II.