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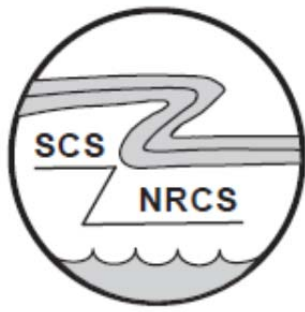
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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 39, No. 4

July/August 2012

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Lennie Losh

Congressional Actions -Everything is called a "jobs bill." Almost every bill in Congress is called just that. Congress mostly is passing legislation in one chamber that will be ignored by the other. A good example is the House Republicans holding up a bipartisan transportation bill that cleared the Senate with GOP support.

Affordable Care Act - This health law is now in the hands of the Supreme Court with a decision probably reached before the end of June. One of the major concerns is a decision on Universal Health Care. Experts are saying that eliminating this provision makes it impossible to pay for the other provisions in this legislation. We are a good example of this with our own "health insurance program." The younger federal employees, and past contributions by current retirees, make it possible for all of us to have an excellent Federal Employee Benefits Program (FEBP).

Farm Bill Update – The 2012 Farm Bill, passed by the Senate, will contain billions of dollars in cuts and eliminate some longstanding farm subsidy programs. The bill would cut \$23 billion in funding over 10 years. The bill would eliminate most of the current payments made to crop farmers and provide for subsidized crop insurance. Funding cuts take \$6 billion from conservation programs and \$4 billion from nutrition programs. The bill proposes condensing 23 conservation programs into 13. The Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program would remain. A House Committee is expected to work on its version later this month. Numerous amendments to cut spending further are expected in House deliberations.

Editor's Note: HR 5652, Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012, has been passed by the House, which includes an effective 5% pay cut for federal employees because of an increase in retirement fund contributions of 5% (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.5652>). This does not affect retirees.



Thought for the day:

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.

From "retiring" Mike Nethery, Editor:

"I would like to thank the Board of Directors, State Representatives, and members who have provided news items for me to include in the ARCSE Newsletter for the past 9 ½ years. I have enjoyed my time as Editor. It has allowed me to become re-acquainted with a number of people whom I met or worked with during my career with SCS. In addition, I have been made more aware of all the service rendered by retirees in their communities. I trust you will give an equally great level of support to Jerry Bernard as he continues the tradition started in January 1974 by Hal Jenkins. Thanks to all for a great ride."



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Berkland

You still have time to make plans to attend our **annual meeting** which is set for Monday, July 23rd in Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) annual conference. The SWCS meeting is scheduled for July 22-25 and will be held at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel. Our luncheon will be at the 35th Room of the Reata Restaurant which is about a block from the hotel in the heart of Sundance Square. We have scheduled the room on July 23rd from 11:00AM till around 2:30PM with lunch being served at approximately 12:00 noon. I hope to see you at the luncheon. For a reservation form, see the May/June newsletter or the ARCSE website homepage.

With this newsletter we have completed the partial transition to an electronic newsletter. Of our almost 1,200 members, approximately 800 will be receiving the newsletter electronically. This will allow a substantial savings as we will no longer have to pay for printing, assembling and the postage for mailing these electronic copies. I want to thank you for making this happen as the saving will make our organization solvent for a long time in the future. Those receiving the electronic newsletter will note that we have switched from the two column version to a full page for ease in reading. I hope you will enjoy it. Mike and Jerry are working hard to make each as informative as possible.

I also want to thank the folks in the following states for submitting articles to Mike in the past and now to Jerry Bernard: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. If your state is not on this list, we would be interested in hearing from you. We receive articles from many sources: 1) the State Representative, 2) some states have designated a person to submit articles from their state, 3) any member can submit articles directly and 4) some states like Texas and Pennsylvania have their own newsletter that they submit with articles for the ARCSE newsletter. Any of these methods are very workable. We look forward to hearing from you. Please submit the article electronically if it is at all possible—I am sure this will make Jerry's life a little easier.

As I said in a previous newsletter, 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 newsletter. I usually send this out a couple of weeks before the newsletter is due. For example, in the March/April newsletter it stated that the next newsletter articles were due by April 25th for the May/June newsletter, so I sent out my request for articles around April 10th asking members to get me their articles by around April 20th. I know that several, if not most all, State Representatives follow this same procedure.

NEW ARCSE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jerry Bernard, Editor

I want to thank past Editor, **Mike Nethery**, for his service, counseling and guidance in transitioning editors for the Newsletter. By way of introduction, I retired in Dec., 2011, after 39 years of service with the SCS and NRCS, ending my career with almost 20 years as the National Geologist for the Conservation Engineering Division in Headquarters. I started my career as a Soil Scientist in Columbus, OH, in 1972 and soon found myself on John Peterson's Watershed Planning Staff as one of the junior geologists. I continued my career as a geologist in Jackson, MS; Indianapolis, IN; and the National Technical Center in Lincoln, NE, before moving to NHQ. I have focused on sedimentation, stream restoration, and water quality issues throughout my career, as well as other facets of geology support.



Enough about me, though. Now that I have been receiving reports and information from many of you, I am in awe about the breadth and extent of the human conservation resources who continue to carry on the passion for caring for the land and our natural resources. I only hope that I can continue to provide the same high quality service that Mike has provided for the past 9 and a half years.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

Jerry Hytry has taken his leave as Historian of ARSCE, and I will try to continue the tradition of providing historical vignettes for the Newsletter.

We can start with Jerry himself. When I became historian of SCS in January 1981, Jerry was one of the people who welcomed me and who thought a historian could contribute to the cause. People such as Jerry educated me. I particularly recall one story that illustrated how the Service was trying to promote wise land use during the heyday of post-World War II suburbanization.

As a district conservationist in Wisconsin, Hytry would make a regular presentation on a local TV show. Promoting use of the soil survey was a prime topic for the shows. In 1966, Congress, responding to the suggestions of **Charles Kellogg** and SCS, authorized USDA to assist local governmental, and other, groups with soil survey information for "community planning and resource development." The manager of the station approached Jerry one day and said, in effect, "I really haven't paid close attention to what you have been saying on the show, but I sense that you may be able to give me some advice." You probably know the rest of the story. The program manager owned a house in a residential development where the soils were not suitable for septic tanks. The community, far distant from a water treatment plant, needed its own facility. In this way the manager, an unhappy homeowner, came to recognize Jerry's and the districts' and the agency's value to the community.

Thank you, Jerry Hytry, for serving as Historian of ARSCE and for helping educate me.

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

ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

Ron Marlow

I want to welcome a new state representative. **Mario Milani** has retired as the Representative for California, and I am pleased to report that **Bill Ward** has agreed to assume those duties. **Bill** retired in 2010 as the Design Staff Leader for NRCS in the California state office. You may read more about **Bill** in the California news in this edition. The Board extends its thanks to **Mario** for his service to the ARCSE and the retirees California. Members in California may e-mail their news to **Bill** at wardclan@comcast.net.

DEADLINE FOR
SEPT/OCT 2012
NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 25

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: wardclan@comcast.net

Bill Ward, Design Staff Leader, Davis, CA, Engineering, retired (12/30/2010) and became a member of ARCSE this month. Effective immediately I assumed responsibilities for being California's ARCSE Representative. I am enjoying my retirement very much keeping very busy enjoying my 2 young grandkids and playing music with my Bluegrass band, Western Light! Any retirees with an interest or passion for music like me should check out our band and music on our webpage at: <http://westernlightsband.com/>.

California has a good sized group of retirees with the first Wednesday of every month established to meet for lunch at the IHop Restaurant in Davis. The tradition of monthly get-togethers for California retirees began back in 1988 when State Conservation Engineer **Ted Gerbaz** retired. **Mario Milani** notifies retirees both by e-mail and phone if necessary to remind folks of the luncheon and encourage attendance.

California typically gets 20 or more retirees (counting wives) every month to come. At the June luncheon there were 19 attending. Those attending included: **Pat Grover**, **Virgil Backlund and his wife Dolores**, **Gary Bullard**, **Helen Flach**, **Jack George and his wife Janet**, **Ted Gerbaz and his wife Ila**, **Les Hanson and his wife Dorothy**, **Ron**

Hoppes and his wife Marilyn, Mario Milani and his wife Virginia, Walt Sykes, Stan Moorehead, Marilyn Anderson and Betty Fox. Betty Fox is 90 years old, retired as an area clerk in Sacramento and is still active today working with local RCD's! Working NRCS staff in Davis are welcome to come, and **Dan Johnson**, State Water Management Engineer, attended. **Gene Andreuccetti**, former STC, had a heart attack recently but is recovering and expects to be at the July luncheon. **Ed Burton**, current CA STC is joining the retiree ranks with his retirement celebration being June 28.

FLORIDA

(Vacant), ARCSE Representative

Bob Halstead reported that 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 an 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.

The annual Retired South State Conservationists and Friends meeting was recently held in beautiful Chrystal River, Florida.



The Florida group



The Ladies welcome Bill Austin- Ellen Norris, Edna Firor, Barbara Lee, Peggy Todd, Carolyn Glasgow and Sue Halstead

Hosted by **Bob and Sue Halstead, Jerry Hytry and Bill Austin**, the group met at the beautiful Plantation Inn located on the Chrystal River.

The group included **Peggy and Ernie Todd, Coy and Barbara Garrett, Frank and Mary Nell Scudder, George and Ellen Norris, Billy and Betty Milliken, Warren and Barbara Lee, Edna Firor, Bill and Irene Frederick, Jerry Hytry, Niles and Carolyn Glasgow, Dennie Burns and Lee Frederick, Bob and Sue Halstead and Bill Austin.** In addition to conversation and reminiscing the group enjoyed shopping, boat rides and a final evening at the "Florida Swamp Party" with all the trimmings.

Several "golfers?" competed in the annual golf tournament while some enjoyed the areas fishing. Again this year no winners were declared in the golf match because the last



Boat ride time

several years results are still under review by the golf committee.

One attendee said "I enjoyed this so much I plan to come every year even if I have to hire someone to drive us". Next year's meeting will be hosted by the North Carolina group under the direction of **Coy Garrett**.

GEORGIA

George Norris, ARCSE Representative

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Regular meetings of retirees in Georgia often coincide with the deadline for getting notes into the editor for inclusion in this newsletter. That explains why you are just learning that the Athens area folk gathered for lunch on April 26, 2012. Attending were **Jim and Judith Helm, Talbert Gerald, Pat Robison, Richard and Barbara Andersen, Marjorie Lucas, Carolyn Adams, Linda DePietro, Vivian Patton, Billy and Norma White, Cecil and Gene Martin, Simmie and Betty Bell, Kitty Stevens, and Edna Firor**. The group congratulated two couples on having celebrated wedding anniversaries on April 16. For **Beth and Talbert Gerald**, it was 51 years; for **Cecil and Gene Martin** it was 64 years. WOW! The luncheon was the first outing for **Carolyn Adams** since having back surgery. **Richard and Barbara Andersen** reported success in their untiring efforts to get a new homeless shelter constructed. The **Andersens** are rewarded by seeing the clients that they spend many voluntary hours with move into the new shelter. **Morris Shaffer** was remembered as he experiences health issues. **Jimmy Dean** continues very slow recovery from his accident and is experiencing related complications.

Edna Firor and George and Ellen Norris attended the 2012 reunion of Retired South State Conservationists and Friends in Crystal River, Florida. **Bob and Sue Halstead, Bill Austin**, and other Florida retirees were outstanding hosts. They arranged great facilities and provided a grand array of food and beverage. All the golfers were pleased with the course and found ample reasons for scores. A great time.

George and Ellen Norris arrived back home on June 23rd after spending time with their daughter, **Pat** and her husband **Marc** in Michigan. After suffering stroke-like symptoms on May 16th, **Marc** was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. George and Ellen were with them at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit for the biopsy/diagnostic procedure and then to Mayo Clinic/St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN for surgery to remove the tumor. Marc starts radiation/chemo. treatment soon, anticipating that it will be as successful as was the surgery. We have gained renewed respect for advances in medicine, the skills of outstanding surgeons, and the power of prayer. Continued prayers are needed for Marc and Pat.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative

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In the last newsletter I mentioned **Duane Miller's** annual ski trip and his and **Mary Jo's** trip to Padre Island. Duane shares further details. "The Black Hole Ramblers completed their 27th annual ski trip to Summit County Colorado the last full week of January. The group this year included 14 folks from various parts of the country: **Duane Miller, Bob Dayton**, retirees from Iowa, **Jody Christianson**, NRCS in Illinois. These three are charter members of the Ramblers and have participated in every trip since 1986. Other current and past SCS/NRCS employees included **Rick Knutson, Al and Ruth Ehley, Sindra Jensen, Emory Lensch and Craig Muehlberg**. Members came from Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and California. We all had a great time as usual. That pretty much means if we have good travel weather on the way out and on the way back, it is a good trip. Much more time these days is spent playing cards, snowshoeing, and generally lounging about rather than skiing."

Retirees **Duane and Mary Jo Miller** spent the month of February on South Padre Island, TX to escape what turned out to be a very mild winter in Iowa. Lots of warm sunny days. Granddaughters and daughter came to join us for a week. Great fun and not so much traffic. Since March, due to the great late winter/spring weather, we spent much time at our lake home in northwest Iowa.

Likewise, **Eldon Weber** shares a note on his and **Jeannie's** trip to South Carolina. "Jeannie and I visited my brother in Sun City Carolina Lakes, S. Carolina the first week in May and then went on to Charleston where **Mark Berkland** gave us 'first class' accommodations and served as our tour guide. We had so much fun talking about our experiences while in the State Office and seeing the sights of the area.

Following Charleston we visited Savannah, GA for two nights and then we were at a timeshare on Hilton Head Island for a week. This was one of the most enjoyable vacations we have ever experienced. The southern hospitality, history,

weather, and food were fantastic! We were at Hilton Head during the golf tournament, pulling for Zac Johnson, Cedar Rapids native.”

I am always asking for items for the newsletter but failed to include one that **Jan Schmidt** gave me a long time ago. A trip to Hawaii though is news anytime. **Jan’s son, Joe** and his friend, **Jerry Denbow**, took her. They went to Waikiki Beach and toured Pearl Harbor. After that they went to Maui. There was a horseback riding tour, a luau, and a drive on the Hana Highway. The two men went snorkeling while Jan went on a tour to the craters. A great time was had by all.

Jan continues with her roller skating, competing in Regionals in Jefferson City, MO. She competes in solo dance and circle figures. Nationals were in Peoria, IL.

Birthdays are in the news – **Wilma Maddy** has celebrated her 90th as has **Dewey Bondurant**. Dewey has moved to the Wesley Retirement Community. **Howard Hughes** will celebrate his 95th birthday on July 12th.

Biannual Summer Picnic

On June 21st retirees, spouses and friends met at the Longhouse at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt in northeast Polk County for their state-wide reunion. **Lyle Asell and Brian Peterson** planned the event. Thanks for another great reunion and their report is included in this newsletter. There are no greater retirees than those from SCS/NRCS in Iowa.

It was a perfect day for 42 retired SCS/NRCS Iowans, by birth or adoption, to assemble for the biannual summer picnic. Included were: **Lyle and Charlotte Asell, Joe Ausan, Dick Birchmier, Ralph Braymen, Art and Mary Jane Bryant, Deb and Kirby Cavett, Bob Dayton, Tim Doran, Mark and Ann Jensen, Russ and Donna Knutson, Herman and Helen Kopitzke, Jerry Coster, Roger and Donita Link, Marvin Lundstedt, Keith McCall, Bev and Darhol Miller, Duane and MaryJo Miller, Marge Miller, Brian Peterson, Jim and Betty Reel, Maralee and Jack Sarasio, Chuck Shirley, Volney Smith, Ron and Marsha Snyder, Don Ummel, Ron Walker, Eldon Weber, Herb Wilson and Steve Yaddof.**

The floods of 1993 helped create the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt event site located along the Skunk River. Of the 7,400-acre greenbelt, about 6,000 acres are in EWRP or WRP, with the Polk County Conservation Board buying the residual value fee title. The area has flooded several times since '93, and where corn and soybeans struggled, Sandhill Cranes, over 200 species of birds, and many other wildlife species now thrive. The largest population center in Iowa, Des Moines Metro, is located in Polk County, so the area is heavily used for bird watching, hiking, hunting and other outdoor activities. The area is actively managed using native grass seedings, fire, altering hydrology, etc. There are also several research projects, completed or in progress, evaluating alternative management approaches that suggest cows and goats are great at improving habitat.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Kansas experienced one of the earliest harvests in history. Many of the golden fields of grain were cut by the second week in June, a whole month earlier than normal. Even with the drought we are experiencing in the Salina area, the wheat heads did fill out, and yields were better than expected.

The 58th Kansas State Federation of Chapters of NARFE convention on April 22-24 was hosted by the Salina Chapter. A number of conservation retirees and their spouses worked very hard to make the convention a big success—**John and Linda Ourada, Duane Evans, Harold and Becky Klaege, Francis and Linda Komarek, Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter, Gerald and Charlene Karnes, Nova Atwood, Mike and Marge Ahern, and Deanne and Ron Lull. Harold Klaege** received two Service Officer of the Year awards for his exemplary work in assisting members and surviving spouses with their benefits questions. One award was given by the Kansas Federation of Chapters and the other by Region V, which comprises seven states.

The garden of **Norman Doehring** was featured as part of the Central Kansas District Master Gardeners' 2012 Garden Inspirations Tour held in Salina in June. The garden of perennials and annuals is mixed to create interest and is accented by **Norm's** hand-made glass. Norm plants the flowers in their terraced garden while **Leora** weeds and tells him what to plant. His favorite part of the garden is the Asian lilies. For a number of years they had a creek run through their backyard and were able to use it to keep their plants watered. One day the creek ran dry and they discovered that the water had been flowing from a leak in a city water main!

Jess F. Crockford, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations headquartered in Hutchinson, Kansas, retired June 16, 2012, after 39 years of service. **Jess** started his SCS career in 1974 as a Range Conservationist at Phillipsburg, Kansas. In 1976 he moved to Kinsley, Kansas, then to Council Grove, Kansas, in 1979 as the District Conservationist. In 1987 he relocated to Salina, Kansas, to serve as the State Range Conservationist. His last move was to Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1990 as the Area Conservationist.

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association was held June 22, 2012, at Martinelli's Little Italy in Salina, Kansas. We gathered mid-afternoon to visit and reminisce. **Donn Teske**, President of the Kansas Farmers Union, gave a very informative program on his travels to Senegal Africa as part of the Farmer to Farmer Program. A memorial service for those deceased during the past year was held. Before adjourning, there was a short business meeting in which **Gary Kelley** was elected Vice President and **Lawrence Wetter** was appointed the Kansas newsletter editor.

Attending were **Mike and Marge Ahern, Nova Atwood, Don Cooper, Arlie and Dorothy Cox, Glenn Creager, Granville and Ruth Davidson, Norman and Leora Doehring, Duane Evans, Bob and Dorothy Gerdes, Jean Hamilton, Robert Higgins, George and Charlene Jorgensen, Gerald and Charlene Karnes, Gary and Annette Kelley, Jerry and Linnadelle Lee, Deanne and Ron Lull, John and Linda Ourada, JD Rector, Bill and De Roth, Robert and Carolyn Roth, Ken and Betty Sallee, Jerry and Sharon Schuetz, Eldon and Betty Schwant, and Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter**. Since they were unable to attend, e-mails were shared from **Billy Barb, Tom Dixon, Charles Foster, Marilyn McMulkin, Kelso Williams, and Loyd Wilson**.

Since I have been the Kansas Representative (summer of 2010), this is the first reporting period that I do not have a retiree's death to report. However, we lost two spouses, **Norma J. Fleming**, spouse of **Edward Fleming** who resides in Caney, Kansas; and **Doris M. Gough**, spouse of **Marvin L. Gough** who is also deceased.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative

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Not much excitement to report on from the conservation retiree community in Massachusetts. Three consecutive days over 100 degrees; gardens are all planted; Hadley asparagus has run its course for the year; local corn, strawberries, and blueberries are available; and the federal retirement checks keep coming. Isn't it a great country?

The town of Amherst is busy re-routing traffic and causing delays near the NRCS state office as they construct two roundabouts near Atkin's market. Some say the dual rotaries are barbell-shaped while others call them dumbbells.

On May 4th a group of retirees gathered at the Route 9 Diner for our quarterly breakfast that was ably convened by **Mark Zinan**, retired St. Admin. Officer. I'll probably forget someone but I'm thinking that the group included **Doug Brown** (contracting officer), **Rudy Chlanda** (geologist), **John Kick** (ASTC), **Nancy Sheard** (engineering tech.), **Carl Gustafson** (SCE), **Dave Nelson** (ASCE), **Frank Wilda** (contracting officer), **Dennis Verdi** (civil engineer), and **Jeff Anliker** (ASTC). It was fun getting together with other retirees.

Reports from usually reliable sources indicate that **Cecil Currin**, our East region ARSCSE vice president, has a new 2012 Nissan Altima that he plans to break-in with a road trip with **Lou** to the ARSCSE annual meeting in Fort Worth in July.

Another report surfaced that **John Kick's** garden in Amherst was recently visited by a black bear and her cub. John was successful in using his wildlife management knowledge to get the bears to high-tail it. We've been seeing more and more really wild wildlife coming into the Valley and making life more exciting.

MISSISSIPPI

Vacant, ARCSE Representative

Charles Tisdale, retired Asst. St. Cons. Engineer, reported that **James M. White** died on Sunday, May 6 in Atlanta, Ga. He was 94. His obituary was in the Jackson Clarion Ledger. His long service with SCS was in MS. He and **Helen** moved to Georgia a couple of years ago to be close to two of their daughters. Helen died less than a year ago. He was an Area Conservationist before moving to the State Office in Jackson as an Asst. State Conservationist.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Fred Gilbert: (Native Missourian retired to New York)... I appreciate hearing from the home folks through the newsletter. **Mary and I** made an auto trip to Phoenix in March to see our daughter's new place. She and her husband moved from Port Orchard, Washington to their Arizona home the first of the year. We visited with our son in Columbia MO on the way back. He is entering a graduate program at the University this fall.

Darlene Edwards: I recently had a one-week stint in the hospital with pneumonia. Thank God I survived with the help of some great visitors and a lot of prayers I'm sure. (This may not be exciting, but it is something I have to include on my social calendar, ha-ha)

Dennis Shirk: I don't have anything major to report other than Retirement Life is GOOD....

Lane Thurman: **Nancy and I** made a short trip in the RV over to Kentucky and Tennessee to visit a boyhood friend and to visit the "Land Between the Lakes" Recreation Area. Not a lot to do over there but a pretty place to see. We did see some drag-boat races with the boat hitting 130 MPH--pretty fast in a boat with an outboard motor. Mine won't quite make it that fast. And, we did have a little excitement--on the way into the park (it is almost all wooded) a turkey flew up in front of the truck. It hit my right front headlight, broke all the supports behind it, dented the hood and broke the grill, doing \$2,180 worth of damage, and I didn't even get the turkey..... We are flying to Florida to visit our son and wife and daughter, **Delaney**, who is the light of our life these days.

Wayne and Mary Weaver: Mary and I were planning to drive to Spearfish, SD to watch our grandson graduate from High School last month. We decided, at the last moment, that we would be unable to make the trip. About two days before graduation, our daughter told us that the Black Hills Pioneer, the area newspaper, would be videoing all the Black Hills schools for each graduation and show them on the internet. Behold, the graduation came to us, not us to the graduation in Spearfish, SD. We missed being there to talk to the boy in person but we did see him for the whole ceremony. Ain't modern technology grand?

Jess and Phyllis Epple: It's the middle of June here at J P Ranch, and haying time has arrived. We have added an additional 140 acres to the meadows we usually bale and expect to have several more bales for 2012-2013. We nearly ran out this past winter. Our cattle are doing well with the fast rotation grazing system. I thought we were dry until Phyllis and I took a trip to Guymon, OK several days ago. Last year Guymon/Goodwell area received about 3" of rain! We forgot how windy it is there. Their pasture land looks sad.... I helped a nephew work on his windmill (Airmotor) while there. It's been a while since my last windmill repair job!..... Remember; "Beef, is what's for dinner" (and Angus beef is best).

Bill and Kris Pauls: We went to South bend, IN to run the races at Notre Dame. I ran the marathon and was proud of **Kris**. She trained for, ran, and FINISHED the 5K race, in a pretty good time, too--41 minutes. My marathon time was my usual slow 60 year-old plus pace, but the weather was nice, and I did finish an hour faster than the hot race the previous month in Nashville. The finish into the stadium was VERY cool, playing the Notre Dame Fight song as we ran into the tunnel and out onto the field. We're headed to Missoula, MT for a race there on July 8th. That should be a fun scenic trip as we are driving out. We're staying with friends from our neighborhood that moved out there earlier this year who wanted to be with their kids. The garden at the lake cabin looks really good as I have been able to get down there and tend to it more this year. Also more rain early. We just got back from the kids for Father's Day--had a great weekend with both kids' families--all the G'kids--they are quite a group of characters and we love them all. Building a tree house at the lake for the G'kids, having fun with that. Had to take the JD rider to the JD dealer in Lebanon...ever had a PTO clutch fall out onto the ground? Not good! Fun JD store there though :).... Mom will be 92 on July 23rd. We'll go to IA to spend the day with her. She is doing real well at a very nice independent living facility in Newton. We're still volunteering at several venues and with different organizations. Also spending a lot of time with a LIFERunners group (pro-life/anti-abortion group of runners) and fighting much of the current President's agenda, especially the HHS mandate (nasty piece of work against Religious Liberty and the First Amendment). We are working hard to see that the "O" is not re-elected. I used to worry about saying things like that during my career, but heck I'm retired now, I don't care who knows I'm a stout-hearted conservative patriot, and Obama has got to GO!!! If you disagree, ain't that great!!! We still live in a free country and can have different opinions and express them openly...YEA!...It IS!!!! GOD BLESS AMERICA!.... God Bless, God Speed

Bill and Ruby Riggs enjoyed a tour of the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium in late April. They visited Amsterdam, Luxembourg, and Brussels. Some of the points of interest included the Anne Frank house, site of the Battle of Waterloo, Battle of the Bulge, and the American cemetery in Luxembourg where General George Patton is buried as well as a neighbor of Bill's parents from Columbia. It is also the final resting place of many of the heroes from World War II. The tulip fields of the Netherlands were truly spectacular. Bill and Ruby enjoyed delicious Belgium

chocolates and waffles. They also visited a windmill, a cheese factory, a wooden shoe factory, and the romantic medieval town of Burges.

Forrest Tindall: No good news to report from here. **Joann's** ovarian cancer returned in March, causing a blockage of her small intestine. Doctors put a port in her stomach and sent her home with 2 weeks to live and to eat only baby food. A friend of a friend who is into alternative medicine started giving her a concoction called a Trojan Horse. The blockage cleared up, and she is back to eating normal food. The hospice nurse comes 2 times a week. She still seems to need heavy doses of pain medication but is able to come to the table in a wheel chair for meals. A volunteer lady comes in for several hours twice a week so I can go shopping and run errands.

Jay and Leigh Lingwall: Since returning home from Florida, we have been busy with various projects: planting 2,000 trees on CRP land in Saline Co., helping offspring move residence, upgrading our Jeep Wrangler, and having company. **Jay** was in Canada for a week of fishing with his brothers and a couple of friends. He reports catching the most fish and probably also the biggest! While he was gone **Leigh** entertained the two oldest grand-daughters with some rare one-on-one fun in Hannibal. All the while we have been training for our next race, the Hannibal Cannibal 5K, coming up over the 4th of July weekend and playing sand volleyball at the new parks and rec courts. We are looking forward to a couple more trips.

Keith Davis: We've been on the move of late. We went to Gulf Shores in May with our friends from Montana, and spent a week on the beach. Out of our south window we could see the Gulf, and out of our north window we could see Mobile Bay. We had a great time. In June, we went to Vancouver, WA, for a niece's wedding. I fished a couple of beautiful streams while there. We've made a couple of trips to Springfield to see the kids and grandson, and I am still cutting lumber at the farm for my shop. I am managing to fish locally when I can find the time.

A Columbia area quarterly breakfast was held on May 9 at the Country Kitchen in Columbia. Those in attendance were: **Don and Barb Williams, Darlene Edwards, Ed and Judy Smith, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Frank and Kay Miller, Odie Swanegan, Mike Wells, John Turner, John and Carol McCarthy, Cordes Potter, Jean Herman, Jack and Joyce Walker, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Robert and Diane Hummel, Bob and Lenore Ball, Bill Pauls, Ron Miller and Dave Rastorfer.** The next quarterly breakfast will be on August 8th and any retiree is invited.

NOTICE: The Annual SCS/NRCS retiree's luncheon will be held on September 13th at the Golden Corral in Columbia. Please mark your calendars and *Note the venue change from Sedalia.*

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

Email: inca@3rivers.net

Montana Big Sky Report:

Scott Hoag reported that he and **Nancy** arrived back in Bozeman in April and enjoyed a little snow and cold weather. They're leaving in July for Port Townsend, WA, for a 2-week Habitat for Humanity build; then a visit with kids and grandkids and Nancy's mother and sister.

Gooby Ranch Report:

What a day for branding calves. You couldn't believe the weather here. It was the last week in May and the day we had set up for branding it snowed harder than it had snowed all year. But we couldn't change the date to brand at the last minute since **Mary Ann** had to line up every one she knows to help with the branding. The weather was unbelievable.

I got the fire going to heat up the branding iron and keep my cocoa warm. Mary Ann got everything else ready. Since it was snowing so hard, I decided to set up our beach umbrella to keep the snow off the fire and me. It wasn't the best but it helped a lot. In the meantime we waited for the branding crew to show up. After waiting for two hours, no one showed up to help. Mary Ann got on the phone and called the branding crew, and no one could make it since they were all snow-bound and couldn't get their horses to head out in the storm. I didn't blame them. Since it is impossible to get a branding crew together more than once, and I had a nice fire going, we decided to go ahead with the branding by ourselves. I'm the head brander, so I have to stay by the fire to make sure the branding iron is heated to the right temperature. There was no way I could help Mary Ann catch the calves. Mary Ann couldn't use a horse since the snow was so deep and it was too slick. She took her rope and ran after the calves, but since the snow was so deep, she couldn't run fast enough to catch a calf.

While I was heating the branding iron and having a hot cocoa drink, I got to thinking about what Mary Ann could do different so she could catch the calves. Then I got the idea that if Mary Ann put on her cross country skis and took a toboggan with her, she could go fast enough to catch the calf and put the calf in the toboggan and buzz it over to the fire so I could brand it.

It worked like a charm. The snow was so deep the calves couldn't run very fast and with Mary Ann on her skis, she could zip right up to them. She didn't even have to rope them. All she had to do was grab the calf, tie its legs together, lay it in the toboggan, and ski down to the fire so I could brand the calf. Mary Ann was bringing calves in faster than I could heat the branding iron.

I was watching Mary Ann go after the last calf which was the biggest. When she reached down to grab it, the calf jumped and Mary Ann grabbed it by the tail. They went flying around the field 90 miles an hour. Mary Ann was hanging on for dear life. The calf was hollering and his mama was coming full blast to save her baby. The next thing I knew the calf was headed right for the branding fire. When the calf shot by the fire, Mary Ann grabbed the branding iron and branded the calf while they were going at a full gallop.

The mama cow stopped by the fire to see if I was the one harassing her baby. Mary Ann could see what was about to happen, and she skied down to me. I hopped on the toboggan, and Mary Ann towed me to safety. Luckily that was the last calf to brand. The cow was getting warm by the fire, and because of the beach umbrella, she wasn't getting snowed on. Since we were done harassing the calves, the last I seen, the whole herd was standing around the fire getting warm, chewing their cud and talking about how Mary Ann had handled the branding. They were probably saying that method of branding was a first.

John Peterson reported that "This morning I was called by **Jamie Jolley**, and she informed me that Wally passed away on April 30th. Some of you may have known that, but I did not. I knew Wally when he was in MT and I was in AZ. Jamie and I had a very good talk, and I appreciate that she has asked to remain on my email list. I hate to be the bearer of such sad news."

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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On May 10, eighty-five SCS/NRCS North Carolina retirees, spouses, and guests gathered for their annual picnic at Lake Crabtree near Raleigh. Lake Crabtree is part of the Wake County Park system and is one of the structures in the Crabtree Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project.

Senior Conservationist, Grady Wise, 97 years old, was recognized as the oldest retiree in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists in attendance were **Everette Barefoot, Ed Brewer, Arlie Culp, John Garrett, Elwood Guthrie, Leonard Kilian, Lawrence Matheson, and Bob Tennant**.

World War II Veterans – Of the above Senior Conservationists, **Barefoot, Brewer, Culp, Matheson, Murray, Tennant and Wise** served in WW II. We have identified 80 former North Carolina SCS employees who served in World War II. Only twenty-one are still living.

Attending the picnic were: **John and Trish Andrews, Everette Barefoot, Jim and Yvonne Boggs, Ed and Betty Brewer, Lipe and Renda Barrier, Bobby Brock, Jim and Becki Canterbury, Elizabeth Caldwell, Richard Willems, Nancy Clary, Sidney Tew, Albert and Susan Coffey, Dr. Maurice Cook, Arlie Culp, Frank and Loretta Evans, Dick Fowler, Dick Gallo, Howard and Peggy Garner, Coy and Barbara Garrett, John and Mildred Garrett, Harry and Elaine Gibson, Charlie Godley, Elwood and Emily Guthrie, Mitchell Guthrie, Hubert Hawkins, Ernie and Samera Hayhurst, Alice Heaney, Joy Parks, Elizabeth Parks, Howard Hobson, Ed Holland, Virginia Horton, Joe Kenyon, Rodney Johnson, Billy and Val Jones, and Leonard Kilian**.

Also attending were **Roger and Rebecca Leab, Harold Lile, Claude and Ruby Long, Lawrence Matheson, Janice Lilienthal, J. B. and Theresa Martin, Grover and Betty McPherson, Dottie and Bruce Moebius, Phyllis Pate, Patty Pierce, John Ray, Clara Raynor, Cecil Settle, Horace Smith, Robert and Phyllis Tennant, Howard and Sherrie Tew, Bill Thayer, Lloyd "Pat" Tyndall, Emmett Waller, Don and Anne Ward, Talmadge and Margie Wiggins, Bryan Wiggins, Manley and Peggy Wilder, Grady Wise and David Wise**. Twelve people attended the picnic for the first time.

J. B. Martin, State Conservationist, gave a report on NRCS programs.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

On April 27, 2012, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Fifty-six people were in attendance. They were: **Eddie Abernathy, David Ankle, Don and Darlene Bartolina, Ken and Rebecca Blan, Linda Cook, Tony Boeckman, Charles and Carolyn Cail, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Bob and Betty Day, Wayne Fjeseeth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Jim and Roberta Frie, Gayle and Mary Goforth, Sandra Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Johnson, Mavis and Wilene Jones, Otho LaMar, Carl and Jeanne Mackey, Paul and Janelle May, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Gordon Moebius, Herbert Moody, George Moreland, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Eddie and Linda Rathbun, Stan Rice, Dan Runnels, Gayland Sandy, Tom Sebert, Bob and Milly Smith, Gene Spurlock, Keith and Phyllis Vaughan, Marcella Wagner, and Roland and June Willis.**

President **Dan Runnels** called the meeting to order. He asked that everyone keep **Doris Lambeth** (wife of **Nick Lambeth**) in their prayers. **Doris** is in ICU at the Shawnee Hospital.

Sandra Hough said she mailed 340 notices about our meeting, and only 3 were returned by the post office. Several retirees have updated their addresses through emails. The retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes, and pictures from each of the meetings. She asked members to help her with addresses for those we no longer seem to be able to reach. Addresses "needed" can also be found on the website.

Twelve new retirees have been added to our retiree list: **Jasper Parker**, ASTC(FO), Stillwater, 36 yrs.; **Suzanne Collier**, Resource Conservationist on Program Staff, Stillwater, 34 yrs.; **Steve Tully**, Biologist on Ecological Science Staff, Stillwater, 40 yrs.; **David Wells**, Agronomist, McAlester TSO; **Robert Dukes**, SCT, Oklahoma City FO; **James Green**, DC, Idabel; **Paul Parham**, SCT, Atoka; **Winston Hook**, SCT, Madill; **Wanelda Corbin**, IT Staff, Clinton TSO; **Anthony Lawrence**, CET, McAlester TSO; **Janelle Ernce**, IT Staff, Stillwater; and **Tammy Lawless**, IT Staff, McAlester.

Tony Boeckman introduced himself as a first time attendee. **Tony** said retirement as the DC at Medford hasn't quite set in, but he hopes to do volunteer work at his church and do quite a bit of traveling. Others in attendance introduced themselves and their spouses if in attendance.

Fred Fortney read a list of recent retiree deaths: **Kathy Garman**, wife of **Gary Garman** retired RC&D Coordinator, McAlester, 3/15/12; **Jack Clayton** (80), retired Geologist from WPS at Chickasha, 2/20/12; **Jim Dunham**, son of **Royce and Rita Dunham** retired SCT Shattuck/Arnett, 2/18/12; **Forrest McClung** (89), retired Area Engineer, Okmulgee, 12/30/11; **Walter Lamar**, retired DC Fairview, 10/31/11; **Francis Adam**, retired DC from Wilburton, 12/8/11. In addition it was reported that **Bill Aldridge**, retired SCT, Okemah, passed two weeks ago; and **Archie Welch** (one week shy of 90), retired AC living at Ardmore, passed a week ago. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred** offered a prayer.

Randy Freeland told the group he is the Oklahoma representative to **ARCSE** and uses information gathered at the meetings to provide to the newsletters sent to members of the organization every other month. Dues are \$18 per year, and he has membership applications for anyone interested in joining. A Complimentary Membership is available for 1 year for anyone retiring after January 1, 2003, and joining ARCSE for the first time. He asked those in attendance who have activities not previously reported to complete an information sheet or update information. He also noted he has established a new e-mail group for Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees and asked for information from them to share in the State and National Newsletters. Following are a few responses to his initial request:

Carolyn Tucker wrote: I'm still quilting and planting a vegetable garden, so I can work to put it all up so we can eat this winter. Out of the eight grandkids we have, two are still playing summer baseball, so we go to a lot of games. I am going to have my first GREAT grandchild in July. That makes me feel really old, but when you get married at 12 years, you get a lot of living in. Ha. If you believe that I've got some really good stuff to sell.

Rick Schlegel wrote: I am the Woodward Branch Manager of Cardinal Engineering and am doing Civil Engineering for Municipalities, Rural water Districts, Private and Industrial Developments. I seem to be busier than ever and hope to "officially retire" someday. I stay in touch with the Woodward Area Office of NRCS and bowl with **Troy Collier**.

From **Roland and June Willis**: We continue to enjoy life living on a small acreage near Stillwater America, where we have now spent half our life as we mark 25 years of retirement this year. We have had ample rain this Spring to fill the pond and the garden; orchard and grass are growing. We planted a few pine trees and plan to graft a few pecan trees.

We have much to be thankful for and enjoy family, friends and church, and manage to stay busy piddling around the place. God bless you all.

Due to problems with light in the room, our slide show "Flashes from the Past" was postponed until our meeting in October. Everyone was encouraged to return to see old slides from the State Office with many co-workers and projects.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2012, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 and Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd.

PENNSYLVANIA

William Bowers, ARCSE Representative

Email: wbowers@comcast.net

Congratulations go to **Jana Malot** of Harrisonville, Fulton County, PA. She was recognized as the Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science as the **Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus for 2012**. A native of Fulton County, Jana earned her Penn State BS degree in 1978 in Animal Production. She retired from USDA NRCS in 2011 after a 30-year career, during which she greatly influenced expanded conservation and grazing programs. Jana began her career as a Conservation Technician in Bedford and Fulton Counties, as a soil conservationist in Armstrong County, and then returning to Fulton County as DC. From 2002-04 she served as Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Coordinator for NE US and worked on the team writing the Grassland Reserve Program of the 2002 Farm Bill. She was the State Grassland Conservationist for NRCS in PA. In retirement, she and her husband operate a 300-acre grassland farm and bed and breakfast in Fulton County.

Carolyn Gelhan thanks everyone for their prayers over the last five years. Her son-in-law finally got a new kidney on June 2, 2012. Both kidneys had been removed last September.

Don and Shirley Lindsey are doing fine. Busy as ever. Don has been doing his stints at Union Mills Homestead (near Westminster, MD) as the resident 19th century carpenter, building things with his hand tools. Lots of school children - field trips as well as other groups. He also keeps busy with the local Historical Association as well as his church work. **Shirley** still enjoys volunteering with our Master Gardener group here in Adams County. She teaches a Bible Study class at church. And is always digging into our family trees - plans a visit to Salt Lake to the genealogy research library this fall.

Summer is not yet here but seems like it's here, reports **Bill and Robin Branigan**. We've had several days of 90-degree weather already. Our kids sold their house in Midlothian so we moved to our cabin in the Shenandoah Valley. Glad to be here, but the move is not yet completed. The Midlothian house must be vacant by 29 June, but everything must go into storage until a new home for the kids can be established. They have made an offer on a house very close to the cabin, so we will be near them. They have had a dream of living in the Valley come true.

Our new address is: 676 Hilltop Lane, Mount Jackson, VA 22842. Our land line phone is: 540-477-4249. We are only 8 miles West of I-81 and would welcome a visit from any of our friends who are traveling on I-81.

Carl Dupoldt has nothing new to report. He is still working as a consultant with Green Building Solutions and Supplies www.greenbuildingss.com.

From down Texas-way, **Pat Cecil** says she has not done much of anything this year except continue to recover from the illnesses of last year – but life is great and God is good.

Doug Pease notes there are not many people he remembers from his years with SCS in PA (1956-60) Reading the BUGLE brings back many memories of growing up in Susquehanna county and attending Penn State. As a student at PSU, he spent one year across from Hort Woods. He and his wife, **Sophia**, celebrated their 60th anniversary last June with a cruise to Alaska – their first cruise and first time in Alaska – loved it.

The following is a brief report from **Rob Clauto (via Gary Smith, NRCS)** in Afghanistan. "I get a lot of questions and I know everyone wonders what the work is like. We had a very successful and important mission to the Rabat elders Ag Shura. The elders had requested my presence at their Ag Shura through the ALP (Afghan Local Police) commander. They wanted to discuss the status of the training I am putting together. The training is basically the designing and implementation of Irrigation Division Structures in the wadi. I also put together a mini-training package, with pictures, on grazing management. I had the package translated into Pashtu also.

Happy to report that **Willie Ruffin** is safely back from his assignment in Afghanistan.

A note from **Bob Ensor** tells that he is now happy to be on the retiree mailing list and receiving the BUGLE. Bob worked at the NNTC in the late 1990's and is now living on the family farm just south of Hanover, near Manchester, MD.

A short note from **Elmo Sheraden** reports that he has moved from Goodlettsville, TN, to Gallatin, TN.

Rose Marie and Dale Updegraff started the year off with a ski trip to Telluride, Colorado. Unfortunately, **Rosie** broke her leg on the last day, last run. At least it was at the end of the trip! The flight home involved wheelchairs in all the airports. In spite of that, they really enjoyed the trip. Telluride is beautiful, nestled in a box canyon. It's a real Old West mining town with a lot of history. One of the shops was a former bank, and it was the first bank that Butch Cassidy robbed. Up above the town is a modern village with beautiful sculptures, as well as ice sculptures. In April, **Rosie and Dale** spent two weeks in Hilton Head. They also traveled to Jacksonville, Florida to visit **Trudy Cecco**. Some of you may remember **Trudy**. She worked for the State Conservationist many years ago. They continued on to St. Augustine, FL, and did some sightseeing in the oldest city in the U. S. They didn't go in to the Fountain of Youth – too late for that! To celebrate **Rosie's** birthday in May, they went to New York City. They enjoyed Broadway shows and Jazz at Lincoln Center. They also went to some new restaurants and made good use of their subway passes. They are looking forward to a trip to Cape May, NJ, in July.

Don McCandless had a few extra minutes, so he headed off to his fish pond to test his luck. Last year he fished it a few times but caught no fish. This time he caught lots of algae and no fish. Don adds that he never saw algae on the pond so early, perhaps from the 80-degree weather the past week in March. He only saw a few bluegills and no bass. He heard a rumor that a nearby three-acre pond lost all its fish. He is wondering what is happening and is going to look into the fish situation. (Editor's note – Does this story go with your fall hunting tale of no deer?)

In March, **John and Ann Akers** took a bus trip to New York City to visit their son, **Michael**. He took them to see where he works as a designer for Ann Taylor and sightseeing. Also in March, **John** got to ride in a car similar to those used in NASCAR. His daughter purchased the ride for him as a Christmas gift. He made about half a dozen trips around the track at about 120 mph. It was exciting and noisy. The hardest part was climbing in out the car door window, since the doors are welded shut. He has been busy with activities at the Crystal Springs church camp this spring. Some 30" pipe was put in to close up a small stream to increase parking and playground space. John said the stream has a little over 100 acres of watershed and, according to the Corps of Engineers you would have thought we were piping the Juniata River. After some phone calls and an onsite visit with a Corps representative, he finally got the go-ahead. PA DEP had already given their approval, which made it all the more aggravating. They also have a couple of weddings to attend this summer, one in Cleveland, OH, and one in Franklin, TN, so should keep us busy with our other activities.

If you were not happy with the spring weather this year, just wait a day and it changed! **Bill Bowers** planted early veggies earlier than ever and is now reaping the harvest – sugar peas, onions, lettuce, broccoli, spinach and radishes. With regular rains, the rest of the garden is looking great. We cannot wait for the blueberries to start to ripen. After many years of avoiding the medical profession we have had a "medical year" so far. Bill had a melanoma removed from his scalp in February, followed by a month of immunotherapy. Everything looks good as no spread has been found. Maundy Thursday, **Mary Ann** tripped on a step going into the garage and broke her upper right arm (yes, she is right-handed). No surgery or cast, but she was in a sling for 7 weeks and is now in therapy to get her full range of motion back. Hopefully the rest of the year will be uneventful, health-wise. We are looking forward to spending the last week of June in Bar Harbor, ME, with our family. It should be a great time! We are looking forward to visiting with many of you at the Sept 17th visit to the Flight 93 Memorial and the Quecreek Mine Rescue site.

Always find that SCS and NRCS retirees are busy, doing something to make the world a better place. Noted on a **NRCS news report** that **Joel Myers**, SCS retiree, was part of the program at the Clarion Soil Health Day. He was part of a team of specialists from NRCS, PSU, and OSU.

Last year, in a moment of curiosity, **Fred Schuetz** tried to track down information on **Bob Thompson**. He was the DC in Montgomery County when I moved here in March of 1969. In 1981, **Jane** and I took our kids to Disney World and spent a night with **Bob and Maureen**. Shortly after the Homestead, FL, Hurricane, Maureen and Bob moved to Michigan to be near their daughter. They came back to the Norristown area several times, and we were able to get together and go over old times. I had a telephone conversation with Bob in June of 1996 shortly after Maureen's death. In all the years we were together here in Montgomery County I came to know how much Bob appreciated our coffee breaks. My last conversation with him was several years later, after I had sent him a small jar of instant coffee and told him that would have to do until he came back for a visit. He did not recognize me and had no recollection of receiving the instant coffee. So much for a great friendship, sadly adds Fred.

In February of 2011, in another weak moment, **Fred Schuetz** agreed with his 3 associates of 4 years ago to be a candidate for re-election to Trappe Borough Council. He was again very successful and is again serving as Council President. By the end of 2015 this activity might look good on his resume. It isn't going to happen again.

Frank Resides passed on information on **Lou Kirkaldie**. Lou was in a serious auto accident two days before Christmas. He is in the Tel Hai Nursing Home in Honeybrook. Frank reports that his condition will probably result in a continued stay at the home. Please keep **Lou and his wife, Jean**, in your prayers.

More information is available from The PA BUGLE, the newsletter of SCS and NRCS retirees in Pennsylvania. Subscriptions are available at NO cost either by e-mail or regular postal mail. Send e-mail addresses to fredbubb@aol.com.

A video of Sec Vilsack's talk at Penn State University - CAN be viewed at:
<http://huck.mediasite.com/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=b7e1138468a04d67b0>.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark Berkland, ARCSE Representative
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Hugh Caldwell and **Patsy** visited Williamsburg, VA, during spring break with their 4 grandchildren. They spent a couple of days in Colonial Williamsburg and two days at Bush Gardens. Guess which the kids liked best? You're right! But they did learn a lot about history and how folks used to live. It gave them a better appreciation of what we now have. **Hugh** and **Patsy's** first trip to this area, and they are planning to go back. **Hugh** says there is no way you can see it all in a couple of days.

In May, **Eldon** and **Jeannie Weber** vacationed in North and South Carolina. After visiting **Eldon's** brother in Charlotte, NC, **Eldon** and **Jeannie** spent a couple of days with **Mark Berkland** in Charleston, SC, while on their way to Hilton Head Island. **Mark** and **Eldon** worked together in Iowa where **Eldon** was an Assistant State Conservationist and **Mark** was the State Resource Conservationist. **Mark** and **Eldon** enjoyed talking about old times while visiting the sites in the Charleston area and eating fresh sea food. During the visit, **Brenda Berkland** was in the Norfolk, VA, area visiting her mother who had recently been hospitalized, having suffered a slight stroke. While there, her younger brother was hospitalized. Both are still in rehab and hope to be released after the 1st of July. **Brenda's** mother will be going to an assisted living facility, as she is not able to take care of herself anymore. Needless to say, **Mark** and **Brenda** have been burning up Interstate-95 between Charleston and Norfolk ever since. Mark knows where both Dairy Queens are along Interstate-95.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

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

Members present for the April 20th, 2012 meeting included: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Tom Hodges, Don Kapalka, Don Newman, Joe Nichols, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Joyce Petty, Anita Plummer, Tom and Del Rockenbaugh, Betty Sisson, Bonnie McKee, Wes Fuchs, Jim and Jere Rickman, Dave Drennan, Mark Boysen, Bernelle Baxley, Don Shanklin, and Dennis Erinakes, Harland and Anita Dietz, Bill and Emma Adams, Don Newman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Anita Plummer, and Barbara Gillum.**

President **Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. Club business included a treasures report from **Elaine Davis**. The club has about \$1,687. The club sent a check for \$100 to Marion Porter for the Texas Reunion. **Dave** received a report from **Madeline Rex-Lear** on her dissertation defense. He passed out a copy of the report and summarized it for those in attendance. Her report was concerning bullying and the effect of it on seniors. The cortisol that was collected in our spit is still in the deep freeze, as her funding ran out, and there wasn't enough money to analyze the saliva. The presence of cortisol was to verify stress was present or not. Almost 25% of the seniors she studied reported being a frequent target of peer aggression. This was the first research of this type, and it showed that bullying does not disappear with aging, as previously thought.

Del Rockenbaugh reported that she did not send any cards, which is good news.

MEMBER NEWS:

Maxine Owen reported she contacted several members. **Dorothy Cole** said she will be 90 in May and is not doing as well as she would like. She has some arthritis but feels that comes with being almost 90.

Bill Adams had a constant drainage from his left eye for some time with no known reason for it. The doctors sewed his eye shut for two weeks. When they opened his eye they took out part of the eye lid and drained the area. The eye operation appears to be a success, but **Bill** said his doctors said it could come back at any time.

Hugh and Sue Allcon are looking forward to a trip planned to Mount Rushmore this spring. **Hugh** said they will join us for a meeting sometime soon; they have just remained busy.

Dan Caudle is heavily involved as the Director of Underground Water District on the Upper Trinity in Parker, Tarrant, Hood, and Wise counties. **Dan** has decided to drop his membership in our SCS-NRCS Alumni Club.

Nina Pucket told **Maxine** that **Patsy Hocker** is not doing too well. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy for Lymphoma

REPORTS OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT:

A 50th. Anniversary card was presented to **Bernie** and **Maxine Owen**. **Bernie** told an amusing story about getting married in Alaska.

Maxine Owen did not hear from anyone so the caller group was not activated since the meeting in April.

Dave Drennan had a newsletter from NARFE (I think). It was reported in the newsletter that USDA will commemorate the 150 years of existence in 2012. The annual meeting of NARFE will be held on July 23, 2012 in Ft. Worth.

Elaine Davis had a thank you note from someone who won \$50 at the state meeting. **Joyce Petty** received two thank you notes from people who won \$50.00 donated by the "5 Lucky Ladies".

Bonnie McKee apologized for sending out email to everyone. Someone had hacked her email account so **Bonnie** really did not send out the email.

Dennis Erinakes presented an interesting program on computers. Some of the highlights of his presentation were:

He began the program by asking if anyone knew about Magic Jack. Magic Jack is a device to use instead of using the well -known and much more expensive telephone companies. It costs \$39.00 per year or \$100.00 for 5 years.

He also mentioned Botnet which is a world-wide malicious software package that causes your computer to slow down. Special software is needed to detect it.

He also recommends PC World magazine to keep up with new developments in the computer world. One can go to PCWorld.com to download the free AVG virus detection software. AVG has a function which scans for the botnet software.

He mentioned Scare Ware. There are two types of scare ware. One is not so vicious but it offers to clean up your computer for a fee. The thing to watch out for with this is it wants your credit card number so it can charge you to do this. The vicious type of scare ware leaves a little piece of software behind on your computer that can later do damage to your operating system or other files on your computer.

Dennis does recommend once a week cleanup of your computer and there are software packages to do that and can be trusted.

We are sad to report the passing of **John Vick**, husband of **Alta Vick**. John Edward Vick, 79, passed to the Lord Friday, May 25, 2012. Survivors: Wife, **Alta Vick**; son, **John Edward Vick Jr.** of Houston; daughter, **Gayla Stone** and husband, **David Stone**, of Fort Worth; nephew, **Sam Vick** of San Antonio. **John** leaves five grand-children: **Brittany Stone**, **Jacy Stone**, **Lexi Vick**, **Madison Vick** and **Jed Vick**.

Mildred Robinson passed away suddenly on May 22, 2012 in International Falls, Minnesota at 90 years of age. She was the mother of **Jim Robinson**, retired NRCS employee whose last position was as the forester at the Technical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. **Jim** now resides in Granbury Texas. She also had two daughters, **Ila Hanson** of Des Moines, Iowa and **Linda Sutch** of International Falls, Minnesota. While she turned 90 in March she was planning a big birthday party and family reunion for July 7th, 2012. It was her wish that the party would still go on, so a celebration of



life and family reunion will be held in her honor on July 7th through the 10th. She led a full and wonderful life right up to the end.

“Don't ask the question if you can't stand the answer!!”

WASHINGTON

Jerry Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: Glr52pdr@aol.com

Attending recent retiree luncheons at the Spokane Wolf Lodge Steakhouse were **Carolyn McClane, Ken Kaul, Larry Edmonds, Harry Riehle, Jud Melton, Hans Krauss, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Lennie Husa, Ralph Schmidt, Carl Vennes, Jack Rasmussen, Bob Olson, Phil Schauble and Jerry Richard.**

Bob Olson had been in contact with **Stan Hobson**, Boise, ID. Bob talked about a group that played doubles tennis during the 1970's. They would play on local outside courts Saturday mornings and often played most of the year including the winter months. The exception was when the temperature was 20 degrees F. or less. Asked why, Bob replied succinctly, that the tennis ball wouldn't bounce normally (too low). The foursome was **Stan Hobson, Bob Olson, Bob Mitchel and Jerry Richard.** We were happy to have **Carolyn McClane** join us at the June luncheon. Carolyn was the Staff Assistant to State Conservationist **Lynn Brown** for more than 15 years. Carolyn has been and is very active with volunteering, mostly with the Gospel Mission and her church. **Carolyn and Carl Vennes** and their families enjoyed primitive isolated camping together many years ago on Kalispell Island on beautiful Priest Lake in Idaho. **Ken Kaul and Carl Vennes** were telling fish stories about who had the biggest, strongest fighting, heaviest, tail walking, deep diving, and highest jumping fish. At this writing we didn't get the important specifics such as weight, length, species, girth, etc. Another time.

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Joan Albertella writes “Family visits - drove to Cincinnati (daughter **Dana's** home) and then on to Kansas (daughter **Robin's** home) to celebrate the college graduation of Granddaughter **Erin.**

She graduated from the University of Missouri, School of Journalism, and was on the Dean's list. The next day she was commissioned as a 2LT in the Army. Her grandfather, Retired Colonel **Raymond Albertella**, administered the Oath of Office. Her parents, **Robin and Jim Griffen** (both West Point graduates) pinned on the Lieutenant bars, and **I (her grandmother)** gave her unit beret to wear. We all choked up a little bit as we remembered the day at West Point in 1985 when we pinned on Robin's bars. Needless to say, we are very proud of **Erin.**” What a nice family story. As a long-time Military Academy Liaison Officer (MALO), it even touched your National Capital Area reporter.

Barbara Osgood sends “If you are really desperate for news, you can tell people about my work with Lab Rescue. That's pretty much my life these days. The volunteer organization I work with, Lab Rescue of L.R.C.P., is sponsored by the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac. We cover Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and the northeastern part of North Carolina. Last year we rescued over 900 Labs and we will rescue more this year. Sadly, there are always many Labs needing rescue and many that are euthanized for lack of rescue. You can check out our web site at www.lab-rescue.org and see all the wonderful Labs for adoption.

My specialty is the old Labs who often get left at the shelter to die. I'm on my 17th old Lab since 1996! I have four right now (shhh—don't tell the zoning board!)—three 10-year-olds and an 11-year-old. My fourteen-year-old just died a couple of months ago. We are always looking for volunteers—foster homes, transporters, etc.—so if there are any Lab lovers out there, they are welcome to get in touch with me. There are Lab rescues all over the country, too, so I can put people in touch with a rescue near where they live. Do I need to tell you how fulfilling this is when you are an animal lover like me? I can't think of anything I would rather be doing!” Thanks **Barbara.**

This from **Carl Bouchard.** “Again this year I volunteered (or was volunteered) my services to the National Conference of State Societies as the official photographer for the Cherry Blossom Princesses portion of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. So for 8 days in April I followed and photographed 65 princess representing most of the states, the District, Territories and several Embassies. This marked the 100th anniversary of the gift of the Cherry Trees from Japan to the US around the Tidal Basin. Next year will mark the 65th anniversary of the Princess Program and I expect it to be as grand an event. Janet being International Princess Chair ended up escorting the US Queen to Japan

for 10 days. This was her second trip to Japan having been the Chaperone in 2007. Over 8,000 pictures can be seen at <http://cbf2012princesses.shutterfly.com/>."

Wayne and Dolly Maresch celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary this June. This union resulted in 6 children, 17 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren, (so far). **Wayne** says he will not be known as Great Grandfather, but as Grandfather the Great. **Wayne** is still recovering from surgery on his second hip. He has had 2 operations on each hip, to date. I guess the doctor has to keep doing it over until he gets it right. Congratulations **Wayne and Dolly**. And get well.

We are sorry to pass along that **Barry Kintzer's** mother passed away on May 20, 2012. For those of you that wish to contact **Barry**, his address is 9393 Marlbourne Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-5101. His e-mail is bkint27@yahoo.com.

Lee Shields reported the death of a former coworker in SCS Information Division, **Ella P. Wilkin**. She was 98. "I replaced Ella as an editorial clerk to F. Glennon Loyd, assistant director, when she shifted to the Current Information Branch as a writer with Branch Chief Hal Jenkins in about 1961. I too became a writer taking assignments from Hal J. in 1963 while still with Glen. Ella retired in about 1968-69, and so did Hal in Dec. 1968. Ella was a wonderful person and terrific writer who I think began her SCS service with the NE regional information staff at Upper Darby, PA. Her death notice was in the Washington Post for June 1, 2012. Holler back if you can't locate the clipping. It took me until June 26 to read the June 1 paper! How am I ever going to keep up? But wanted you to know about Ella."

Blanche Peterson is finally back home after being in hospitals and rehabilitation centers since February. I was surprised at how many folks know of Blanche's recent health problems as they responded to my test email. First, we really appreciate all your thoughts and prayers. Below is a bit about her current situation that I took from a recent family letter to our children.

Her problems started with spinal surgery last Nov. She really appreciates all the folks who sent messages of encouragement. **John** learned that his strength was not cooking or doing the laundry.

"I'm sorry it has been such a long time between letters. I will update you all on your Mother's (Blanche's) health with this note. As you know, Mother underwent major spine surgery last NOV. She was rehabbing as an outpatient and living at home. When the rehab wasn't proceeding as we had hoped, it was discovered she needed a new hip also. In FEB she had a hip replacement on her left hip. Things were going well; she was in the rehabilitation center and starting to walk again. Then in MAR she fell and broke that left leg. Back to the hospital for more surgery and they put a plate in her leg. Within two weeks it was discovered that she had picked up a staph infection (MRSA) in the hospital. That has required 4 or 5 (I lose count) more surgeries to try and get rid of the staph. And she has trouble with some of those surgeries. Last week we got some hopeful assessments from the surgeon and the infectious disease doctors. They think the staph may be gone. She is still in the rehab center, and doing her physical and occupational rehabilitation, and is now walking with a walker. We visit the doctors again this Thursday, and hopefully will get another good report. If all goes well, she could be coming home in mid-June. She will probably use a walker most of the time, as she still doesn't trust her left leg and we don't want her falling again. It's been a long 8 months."

Thanks again for your encouragement--John Peterson

Life Member Pearlle S. Reed Retires

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the retirement of Assistant Secretary Pearlle S. Reed, effective June 1, 2012.

"On behalf of NOPBNRCSE, we thank Lifetime Member Mr. Pearlle Reed for his significant contributions toward The Organization, USDA, and NRCS employees. We look forward to utilizing his experience and talents to further the mission of The Organization.

He began his career at USDA as a student trainee with the Soil Conservation Service in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas in 1968 while in college and rose to the position of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1998. Reed served in that position until 2002.

He served in four states and headquarters during his career with USDA's NRCS. From 1994-97, he served as NRCS's Associate Chief. He was the State Conservationist for California from 1989-94 and State Conservationist for Maryland from 1985-89 responsible for leading comprehensive soil, water, and resource conservation and development programs in those states.

Reed has held a variety of positions at USDA throughout a distinguished 35 year career.

He has received numerous awards and honors including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. A native of Heth, Arkansas, Reed graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and received a Master's of Public Administration degree from the American University, Washington, D.C."

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesev@gmail.com

Retirements: Charles Eugene Friend, Soil Conservation Technician for the Sistersville Field Office, retired on April 1st. **Carlos Cole**, Resource Soil Scientist stationed in Ripley, retired on June 1st. **Roseanne Kennedy**, Executive Secretary to the State Conservationist, retired on June 30th.

Deaths: Doris Brackenrich, District Conservationist for the Franklin Service Center, reported that **Earl Skiles** passed away. The official obituary was posted in the "In Memoriam" section of the last newsletter, but her message giving more interesting background is listed below:

"I learned on Saturday evening of the passing of **Earl Skiles**. Earl had worked for SCS/NRCS for about 30 years and had retired as one of very few permanent intermittent employees in West Virginia. He was 82.

When I started working way back in 1983, I was a WAE in Mineral County. Earl was there working as a construction technician/aid on one of the flood control dams. He always had such great lunches packed in his lunch box, especially the home-grown tomatoes! He would occasionally share an extra slice of tomato with me.

As the DC in Pendleton County, I was fortunate to renew my acquaintance with Earl, working with him on his farm in Deer Run. We had completed one contract for grazing land improvements and have one more practice left on the second contract. Earl was always concerned about the productivity of his hay and pasture fields and fought a strong fight with invasive plants that tried to establish themselves on his land.

Earl lived in his family home, along with his niece Donna Wagner and her family. Although Earl never married, he was surrounded by a loving family. Donna and her husband Ronnie lived in the house with Earl and took care of him in these later years. Their son Meredith also lived there and helped on the farm, along with his sons, Tristan and Austin.

Mike Skiles, Earl's nephew, and his family, also lived close by and helped with the farm work. Mike has two daughters, Miranda and Misty that were very close to Earl. Earl has one surviving brother, Leroy, who lives near Petersburg.

The family has requested that any Memorial Donations be made to the Franklin Rescue Squad or Fire Department. Cards can be sent to the family in care of Donna Wagner, HC 72, Box 34, Franklin, WV 26807.

Updates: Curtis Sharp reported on one of his latest adventures: "Our fifth "For the Love of Grass" Power Botanizing trek, took place March 10--18, 2012, crisscrossing most of Arizona south of Phoenix. The 2012 trek included six former plant materials persons: **Wendell Hassell, Larry Holzworth, Jack Carlson, Wendall Oaks Robert MacLauchlan** and **Curtis Sharp**. Our inventory mission at each of the 17 scheduled sites was the same as on previous treks; identify every plant within a 'reasonable' area, and leave only when satisfied that this had been accomplished. Miles to travel and darkness were our primary enemies. Combining the time together with old friends, the stimulating and not so stimulating conversation, the outdoor beauty of Arizona, and mutual love of plants will mark the 2012 "For the Love of Grass" as matching or exceeding the previous four Treks. Foothills and valleys of California are on the schedule for 2013."

Peggy Helmick asks for prayers. "I've had several seizures and am unable to drive right now as it's only been about a month since the last seizure. Of course, I wouldn't want to kill myself or anyone else either. Otherwise I'm fine. I'm taking medication and hopefully that will help. My friends have been such a blessing. Glad we keep in touch

John Cooper, age 91, retired DC for the Pt. Pleasant (Mason County) office, will be inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame at Jackson's Mill on July 21st. John also served as DC for many years in Spencer (Roane County). John was born in 1919 on a small hillside farm in Gilmer County. He received a degree in Agriculture in 1940 from West Virginia University. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1942, and after WW II, worked for the Farmers Home Administration and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

He made it a lifelong mission to encourage farmers to practice better land use and to reduce erosion on abandoned farmland. Under his guidance, thousands of tree seedlings were planted in Roane and Mason County, where he was transferred to in 1965. John was always searching for innovative methods to improve SCS programs. He was the first

person to design and supervise construction of hilltop ponds using diversion ditches as the water source. He designed a siphon overflow from a pond to supply watering troughs.

John was designated as trainer for newly-hired agents, and he tutored 12 new professionals during his SCS career. He was also state president of the Soil Conservation Society in 1975.

In 1973, he started Santa's Forest Christmas tree farm, which has provided trees three West Virginia governors during their terms in office: Arch Moore, Gaston Caperson, and Jay Rockefeller. He was elected president of the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association in 1979, and also represented that organization in the National Christmas Tree Growers Association in the early 1980s.

John was recognized for having the 1993 Conservation Farm of the Year in Mason County, taught conservation at 4-H camps, volunteered for the American Red Cross, and worked as a merit badge counselor and Cub Scout leader in Roane County. He was known for his writing and photography skills, and twice had articles published in Goldenseal magazine. More about his accomplishments can be read at www.wvagriculture.org/WVAFHF/12CooperBio.pdf.

Betty Ball "was diagnosed with a heart murmur the first part of the year, had a zillion tests, and the cardiologist finally told me that he had a pill that would take care of the "skip" and for me to get out there and mow that grass, and so far, I seem to be doing OK. However, on April 20th my daughter, Debbie, fell while mowing the backyard bank, broke her ankle in two places (clean breaks not requiring surgery) so she has been out of commission for the past eight weeks. I did some of the hand-mowing but she did most of it and mowing with the John Deere, so I handled it the American way and threw money at it by hiring a mowing service. I have plenty of activities at church to keep myself busy (including taking Debbie to physical therapy twice a week), so I don't miss the mowing too much."

WISCONSIN

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

This is to let you know that **Earl "Mike" Smith** passed away on May 5, 2012. Funeral mass was at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1712 Highland Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701. Interment was in the St. Nicholas Cemetery in Freedom, WI, on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 1:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Sojourner House of Eau Claire, 448 N. Dewey St., Eau Claire, WI 54703 or Immaculate Conception Gathering Space, 1712 Highland Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701. To send the family condolences, please visit: www.fullerspeckienhulke.com.

Alison Pena reported: "It's with a heavy heart I write to let you know that **Frances Fleming** died the day before yesterday. She had a massive heart attack. Her obit can be seen at:

<http://hosting-24627.tributes.com/show/Frances-Louise-Fleming-93929847>."

Ken Lubich reported that former State Soil Scientist **A.J. Klingelhoets** ("Kling") passed away. He was State Soil Scientist from 1960-1979.

More information on visitation and condolences can be found here:

http://host.madison.com/news/local/obituaries/klingelhoets-ambrose-j/article_f770e19a-9f8e-11e1-80ce-001a4bcf887a.html

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

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

The new Senior Conservationists are:

Ida C. Cuthbertson	Sarasota, FL
Leroy J. Drechsel	Albion, IL
Billy C. Griffin	Belton, TX
Donald K. Ummel	Des Moines, 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,
Ida Diener Cuthbertson**

Ida Diener Cuthbertson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up in Northeast Ohio's Portage County. Ida attended schools there and was a 4-H member. After she graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. degree (Economics), she was employed as a statistician with the Ohio Department of Health. She was acting head of its Biometrics and Records Division before moving to Ann Arbor, MI, with her husband, as he completed his electrical engineering degree. While there she worked for Southwestern Michigan Hospital Council on a project sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation that developed the first automated hospital medical/surgical records system (a system still in use a half-century later). Ida retired briefly from professional work when her family moved to northern Virginia. There she became active on two Fairfax County advisory committees. With her children in grade school, she rejoined the workforce as a Technical Aide for Research Analysis Corporation (the US Army think tank). During that period she also completed a Master of Urban Affairs degree at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

In 1974, Ida was hired by SCS as Community Planner in the Resource Development Division's Conservation Planning Branch at NHQ. She held that position until 1980 when she became SCS's Public Participation Coordinator. She reports that during her SCS career her most fulfilling assignments were her public participation duties with an International Joint Commission study (where she introduced public participation concepts to Canadian colleagues) and with USDA's Resource Conservation Act (RCA), the nationwide RCA opinion survey and analysis of public comments. Her work took her to 32 states as well as to Canada, and she became the first female to rise to GS-15 level in SCS career service. She received Outstanding Performance and Outstanding Assistance awards from SCS and USDA respectively for her work, and she was selected for inclusion in Who's Who of American Women. She retired January 31, 1992, and subsequently relocated to Sarasota, Florida.

Since retiring, Ida has continued her public spirited service by serving two terms on the Sarasota Environmental Utility Advisory Committee, as Clerk in charge of elections at the precinct level for the past 17 years, and as an enumerator for both the 2000 and 2010 Federal Censuses. She served as ARCSE Florida Representative and ARSCE Vice President-South, as well as secretary for two NARFE chapters. Her volunteering includes ushering in Sarasota at three performing arts venues, her local food bank, a branch library, her church, and in her community chorus. A seven-continent traveler in retirement, her most notable travels are to her father's Volga River valley birthplace and to Antarctica. She also thoroughly enjoys her family--her two children and their families, especially her two grandchildren. Ida gratefully attributes her healthy, happy life to her career at SCS.

NOTES

Submission from Carl DuPoldt:

Educators Hope New Science Standards Will Boost Performance.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/story/2012-05-08/school-science-test-score/54873156/1>

USA Today (5/11, Toppo, 1.78M) reports in a front-page, above-the-fold story, "New educational science standards due out Friday give teachers hope that they can turn around US students' lackluster science performance," noting that the standards will be released "one day after the federal government released findings showing that eighth-graders' science scores were nearly flat from 2009 to 2011." Noting that the standards were developed by the National Science Teachers Association, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the school standards group Achieve, USA Today adds, "Written by science teachers, scientists, engineers, state policy staffers and business leaders, a draft of the standards has been adopted by 26 states."

SUR-NAME YEAR

IN MEMORIAM

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- Clark 2012** Member **John Benson Clark, Jr.** (81) of Columbus, Ohio passed away on May 27, 2012. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Pierce Clark**; sons, **Roger A.** of Columbus and **David (Renee)** of New Philadelphia, OH; step-children, **Kathryn (Ian) Jackson** of Clearwater, FL, **Andrew D. Graham (Shannon McLaughlin)** of Columbus, **Robert Pierce Graham (Marsha)** of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; and one granddaughter. **John** received a B.S. in Agriculture from The [Ohio State University](#) in 1954. He was a veteran of the 17th Inf. Regt. [Korean Conflict](#). He retired after 36 years with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, primarily serving as the State Conservation Programs Specialist for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He served past president of the All Ohio Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society and in various leadership roles with his church and several civic organizations. In lieu of flowers, donations are asked to Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Kobacker House, 3595 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 43214, or National Parkinson Foundation, 2800 Corporate Exchange Drive, Ste. 265, Columbus, OH 43231.
- Delucchi 2012** **Philip Delucchi** (73) of Granbury, Texas passed away on June 12, 2012. He received a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1961 and a master's degree in forest management in 1976. In 1961, he joined the U.S. Army and was in Monterey, CA for three years. After working for Oregon State Highway Department, he then started a 10-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. In 1977, **Phil** moved to Fort Worth to work for what was the Soil Conservation Service until he retired in 1994. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marcia, two daughters, and two grandsons. Memorials: In lieu of Flowers, donations may be made to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, USA, and mailed to Box 232, Granbury, Texas 76048, or made online to www.cancerproject.org, or to a [charity of choice](#).
- Ferren 2012** Member **Donald G. Ferren** (81) of Litchfield, NH passed away on May 20, 2012, at his home. He graduated from the Thompson School of Agriculture (UNH). He served in the US Army (European Theater) with an honorable discharge (Medical Corp) – 1952-54. **Don** received his BS Degree in Agronomy (soils and plants) from UNH in 1959. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1986 after 35 years of service in New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and in Minnesota as State Conservationist. **Don** returned to NH where he became active in ARSCSE. He received the President's Award for outstanding community service from ARSCSE, and served as National President of ARSCSE. **Don** received the "Best Friend Award" in appreciation of outstanding service from the Federal Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NH – Nashua Chapter. He was predeceased by his first wife, **Gloria Colby**, a son and daughter, seven sisters and six brothers. Survivors include **Janet**, his wife of 22 years, a brother, his daughter, **Lisa (Rick) Kiewel** of St. Paul, MN; his daughter, **Donna (Rick) Guy** of Sparta, WI; his son, **Eric (Cheryl) Ferren** of Northfield, NH, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the VNA – Hospice Program, 1070 Holt Ave., Suite 1400, Manchester, 03109.
- Fleming 2012** **Norma Jean Fleming** (78) formerly of Salina and Altamont, Kansas passed away Saturday, April 21, 2012 in Caney, KS. Surviving to honor her memory is her loving husband of 59 years, **Edward Fleming**, of the home; four children and seven grandchildren. **Edward** and **Norma** lived in various places over the years during Edward's career as a soil scientist in the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in Salina in 1987. **Norma** was active in her church and volunteered at the Salina Regional Hospital. To leave a special message for the family online, visit www.PenwellGabelCoffeyville.com.
- Gough 2012** **DB NM Doris Marie Gough** (86) passed away on April 4, 2012, in Newton, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State University, where she met **Marvin L. Gough**, her husband of 62 years, who served as a range conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. She was a charter member of the Kansas Oldtime Fiddlers, Pickers and Singers. **Marvin** and **Doris** entertained across the North American continent as they traveled in their RV for 15 years and encouraged youth to learn music with programs at schools and the offer of a fiddle on which to learn. Survivors include five sons; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. The family requests memorials be directed to the Marvin and Doris Gough Memorial Fund at Peoples Bank and Trust, 101S. Main St., P.O. Box 1226, McPherson, KS, 67460-1226. The memorial gifts will go to the Kansas Oldtime Fiddlers, Pickers and Singers for an ongoing memorial youth fiddle scholarship.

SUR-NAME YEAR

IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- Henson 2012** **Everett Wesley Henson** (80) of North Haverhill, NH passed away on May 16, 2012. He received his associate degree in agriculture from the Thompson School at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. He served with the U. S. Army during the Korean War from July 7, 1953 to June 2, 1955. He worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SCS) as a soil conservation technician, retiring in 1986. Survivors include **Lois Davis Henson**, his wife of 59 years, four children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cottage Hospital, P.O. Box 2001, Woodsville, 03785 or North Haverhill United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 29, North Haverhill, 03774.
- Huff 2012** **James Elwood Huff** (92) of Napoleon, Ohio, passed away on May 31, 2012 after a short battle with lung cancer. He completed all twelve years of secondary school without ever missing a single day. **Jim** entered the Army Air Corps in 1939 and was stationed in the Philippines when the war started. He survived the battle for the Philippines, the Bataan Death March and spent the entire war in Japan as a POW. He received recognition for his service including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. After the war, **Jim** went to Ohio University and Ohio State to study and received his Bachelor's degree in soil conservation. He spent his career working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring as an area conservationist in 1975. He is survived by his wife, **Anella**, two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren and four great great-grandchildren. The family has suggested that memorial contributions may be made to the St. Paul United Methodist Church, Defiance Area Hospice Center or to the Napoleon Lion's Club.
- Inglis 2012** **Kenton R. Inglis** (71) of Temple, Texas passed away on June 14, 2012. He attended Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Missouri where he graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. He served in the Missouri National Guard. He worked with USDA NRCS in Missouri, Virginia, Florida, New Jersey, and Nebraska before transferring to Temple in 1990. He retired in 1996 as the Deputy State Conservationist with 35 years of service. He is survived by his wife, **Joycelyn (Smith) Ingles**, his daughter, **Rhonda (Andy) Lauby**, and two grandchildren. In lieu of flowers a memorial may be made in honor of **Kenton R. Inglis** to the National Parkinson's Foundation, 1501 N.W. 9th Avenue, Bob Hope Road, Miami, Fla. 33136-4194.
- Jolly 2012** Member **Wallace A. Jolly** (78) of Ocklawaha, Florida passed away April 30, 2012. He had stomach cancer and bone cancer. He retired in 1989 as an Assistant State Conservationist with the SCS, having previously served a State Conservation Engineer. He worked in Indiana and Montana. He is survived by his wife **Janie**.
- Klingel-
hoets 2012** Senior Conservationist **Ambrose J. Klingelhoets** (91) of Monona, Wisconsin passed away on May 15, 2012, of natural causes. **Ambrose** graduated from the UW-Madison and later received his master's degree from Harvard University. In 1944, he was united in marriage to **Muriel M. Leisz** while he was on furlough from the U.S. Army. After serving in World War II as a commissioned captain, **Ambrose** and **Muriel** started a family in Brookings, S.D. They later moved to Madison to raise five children and he was employed by the USDA SCS as the Wisconsin State Soil Scientist from 1960-1979 when he retired. **Ambrose** is survived by his daughter, **Kathy (Bill) Schoener** of Shell Lake; four sons, **Pat (Nancy)** of Madison, **Robert** of Madison, **Paul (Joan)** of Lakeview, AR, and **Mark (Karyn)** of Mount Home, AR; two grandsons and two step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Muriel**. Memorials may be made to Agrace Hospice Care.

SUR-NAME YEAR

IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

- McLaren 2012** **Glen Dean McLaren** (81) passed away June 13, 2012 at home in Pittsburg, Kansas. He married **Darlene (Frankenbery)** on Christmas day, 1952. He is survived by four children, six grandchildren, one step grandchild, and one great grandson. He was preceded in death by one grandson. **Glen** graduated from Kansas State University in 1952. He proudly served in the US Army until 1953. He was then employed by Allis-Chalmers. He joined the Soil Conservation Service in 1956 working in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Washington D.C. where he spent the next 24 years. While working for the Federal Government, he attended the University of Virginia for one year. **Glen Dean** then was stationed in Washington D.C. where he worked for the USDA, then the USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and then served as an investigator for the US Senate until his retirement in 1980. Besides loving his wife of 59 years, **Darlene**, he enjoyed traveling to see family, friends, and foreign lands. Memorial contributions are requested to The Presbyterian Church and/or for Athletic scholarships at Pittsburg State University. These may be left at or mailed to the Brenner Mortuary, 1145 East 4th St., Pittsburg, KS. 66762. Friends may leave condolences online at www.brennermortuary.com.
- Pendleton 2012** Member **Donald Thomas Pendleton** (78) passed away on June 1, 2012 in Breckenridge, Texas. His senior year in high school, he was honored as "Best All-Round" boy. **Don** was a very active member of Future Farmers of America. He earned FFA Lone Star Farmer and FFA American Farmer Degrees. He attended Tarleton State College (1953-1955) majoring in General Agriculture where he graduated Salutatorian of the 1955 Tarleton State program. At Texas Tech, he studied Range Management from which he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He was selected as 1984 Distinguished Alumnus of the Range and Wildlife Department of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Texas Tech University. **Don** served in the US Army Counter Intelligence Corp (1957-1959). In September 1962, he married **Bettejoe Rogers**. **Don** was employed by the SCS where he worked out of offices in Texas, New Mexico and Washington, DC. During a ten-year stint as Chief Range Conservationist, he was instrumental in getting the SCS involved in prescribed burning. The SCS selected **Don** to participate in a mid-career educational program. At Harvard University he earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration of Natural Resources. After retiring from the SCS in 1986, he and his wife, **Bettejoe**, ranched and continued Don's lifelong dedication to exemplary stewardship of the earth. He also gave back by generously funding scholarships especially in agriculture and wildlife management. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Bettejoe**. He is survived by his beloved dog, **Kate** and numerous family members. Memorials may be sent to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1504 East Elm, Breckenridge, TX 76424 or the American Cancer Society.
- Pridgen 2012** Senior Conservationist **A. H. Pridgen** (93) passed away on May 2, 2012. Mr. Pridgen retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Pender County, NC. His employment began in 1946, and he is worked for over 30 years before retiring. He was a veteran of World War II serving as a Corpsman in the US Navy. In 1950 he built a home on the family farm and continued to live there the remainder of his life. On his farm he raised tobacco, corn, soybeans, and strawberries. He was the oldest living member and deacon of Atkinson Baptist Church. He was a member of Atkinson Lodge No. 612 A. F. and A. M. and the Atkinson Ruritan Club. A. H. is survived by three daughters; **Pamela (Phillip) Ford** of Raleigh, NC, **Lynn Lowder** of Atkinson and **Robin (John) Howell** of Albemarle, NC. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, three step grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.
- Smith 2012** **Earl "Mike" Smith** (78) of Eau Claire, Wisconsin passed away peacefully at home, on May 5, 2012. After attending the University of Wisconsin at Platteville, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a soil conservationist for thirty years and retired January 1, 1987. He purchased 20 acres south of Eau Claire, built a house and started Smith's Tree Farm. He is survived by his wife **Donna** of 56 years and four daughters, four sons, and eleven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by twin infant daughters. In lieu of Flowers, memorials may be given to Sojourner House of Eau Claire, 448 N. Dewey St., Eau Claire, WI 54703 or Immaculate Conception Gathering Space, 1712 Highland Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701. To send the family online condolences, please visit www.fullerspeckienhulke.com.

IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

SUR-NAME **YEAR**

- Welch** **2012** Senior Conservationist **Archie P. Welch** (89) of Lone Grove, Oklahoma passed away on April 10, 2012. He attended Murray State College and Oklahoma State University. **Archie** was a veteran of World War II, serving in Africa and Italy. He was a member of the DAV in Ardmore and a member of the Lone Grove Masonic Lodge, receiving his 60 year pin in 2010. His wife of 35 years Neva F. Paxton preceded him in death in 1978. **Archie** worked for USDA SCS for thirty years. He served the cities of Bristow, Boise City, Ardmore, Altus, Duncan and Stillwater, OK. He retired in 1977 as Assistant State Conservationist of Oklahoma. He is survived by his son **Richard** and his wife **Carla**, two grandsons and one great granddaughter. On-line condolences can be made at craddockfuneralhome.com.
- White** **2012** Senior Conservationist **James M. White** (94) retired passed away on May 6, 2012 in Atlanta GA. He retired as the Assistant State Soil Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. He was a member of the Meadowbrook Church of Christ in Jackson for over forty years. He served as a deacon and elder for many years. He was also a member of the Masons and the Rotary Club. He is survived by his three daughters: **Leslie Collinson** of Duluth, GA, **Betty Lister** of Marietta, GA, **Janet Ferguson** of Brandon, MS, nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife **Helen Phillips White**. Memorials can be made in lieu of flowers to Sunnybrook Children's Home in Ridgeland, MS. Online condolences may be expressed at www.crowellbrothers.com.
- Wilkin** **2012** Ella P. Wilkin, 98, writer, Current Information Branch, NHQ. Ella retired in about 1968-69. Ella was a wonderful person and terrific writer who began her SCS service with the NE regional information staff at Upper Darby, PA. Her death notice was in the Washington Post for June 1, 2012.

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