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# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 174  
February 2017

*An organization of retirees of the U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well. I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and is having a great New Year. We had an outstanding Reunion in Nashville that saw over 100 showing up. Fun was had by all. There are more details in this newsletter.

One of the things we decided was that we will go completely electronic for the newsletter and directory unless you let us know you want a hard copy. We are short on volunteers to stuff envelopes for these mailings and they are costly as well.

Please let Andy Anderson ([cande2@juno.com](mailto:cande2@juno.com)) or me ([jekircher73@gmail.com](mailto:jekircher73@gmail.com)) know if you want to have a hard copy. We are hoping this lightens the workload in Reston and saves us some money as well.

Minnesota agreed to host the 2018 Retiree's reunion. The planning team anticipates the following potential logistics and fun:

- End of September or early October for fine weather and peak at fall colors
- Hotel in Bloomington, MN near the airport
- Walking distance to the Mall of America (includes Sea Life Aquarium)
- Light-rail access to downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Excursions that could be considered:
  - Afternoon riverboat cruise on St. Croix or Mississippi Rivers with snacks/refreshments
  - Minnesota Twins or St. Paul Saints baseball game
  - Gangster tour in St. Paul
  - Minnesota (River) Valley National Wildlife Refuge very close to hotel
  - Cultural/museum event in a city center

Adventurous attendees might consider extending their stay with trip up north to a lake resort, north shore of Lake Superior, or a search for Paul Bunyan.

Ideally by May 1, 2017, the planners would like to obtain a rough show of interest for a head count (retirees and guests) to help find a reasonably priced hotel with banquet and hospitality amenities.

I am asking the Regional Directors to poll their state representatives this winter through next Newsletter and e-mail follow-up to [wrretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrretirees2014@gmail.com).

This is also a reminder to all the state reps to stay in touch with the local office on a regular basis so we can keep apprised of retirees and other activities. We don't get notifications like we used to. Thank you for all you do for the retirees.

Again, Happy New Year to all of you and hopefully a heathy one for all. I am still hoping someone will give me some new ideas or even volunteer to help with the organization. A volunteer organization needs lots of volunteers. Please drop me an email or give me a call (303-638-3404) with any ideas you may have or if you are willing to help in any way.



**EIGHTEENTH USGS RETIREES' REUNION  
POSTMORTEM  
Nashville, TN**

By Pete Anttila and Gail Kalen

The Reunion was attended by Retirees, spouses, partners, families, and current USGS employees from 21 states. To date, comments received from the attendees have been positive. The major negative of the Reunion was a lower attendance than previous reunions. The plans for the Reunion overestimated the number of attendees and created much anxiety about the minimum number of room nights in the agreement with the hotel. Fortunately, a favorable agreement on the close out with the hotel resulted in a minimal loss in carry over funds from previous reunions. The close out, however, did include an attrition charge for unfilled rooms.

The hotel accommodations and its support to the Reunion activities were outstanding. Hopefully, the large amount of unused ice they provided at no cost for the Hospitality Room was used to water the hotel's landscape. Participants' first comment upon returning from the Nissan/Fontanel Mansion Tour was "fantastic". The Whiskey Tour was joined by two guides, Mike Bradley and Jack Carmichael from the Lower Mississippi Gulf Coast Science Center (LMGCSC). They provided participants with the U.S. Liquorological Survey Distilled Spirits Resources Investigation Report Old No 7, "Whiskey Distilleries of the Central Basin and Eastern Highland Rim of Tennessee: A Field Sip Guide." The guide supported their outstanding narrative on the geology, hydrology, USGS studies, and water issues along the route. The "moonshine" stories, and breakfast buffet at Short Mountain Distillery were highlights.

At the banquet the youngest retiree, Mark Hamill, the oldest retiree, Hal Langford, and the retirees attending their first reunion were recognized. Because he was attending his first Reunion, President Jim Kircher was surprised that retirees like to have a business meeting; however, the meeting was quite productive. Attendees expressed their unanimous desire for a 19<sup>th</sup> Reunion and raised their hand when asked if they would attend. Decisions were made on continuing to mail the Newsletter to retirees electing not to receive it electronically, and we decided to continue updating the retirees' telephone directory annually. It was decided that we would send the retirees' telephone directory electronically from now on unless the retiree preferred to get it hard copy. This will be announced in February newsletter. IT assistance will be sought to enhance the current process of producing the Directory. One option discussed was to maintain the Directory as a "secure file" with a code access. Deputy USGS Director Bill Werkheiser, agreed to contact USGS Human Resources on a way to supply the Retirees Organization with information on recent retired employees. This information is critical to informing newly retirees about the organization and notifying them of their free 1-year membership.

**BUSINESS MEETING**



James 'Jim' Kircher  
President



The Business Meeting included two presentations from the USGS.

The following is a brief outline of Bill Werkheiser's excellent and informative presentation:



William 'Bill' Werkheiser  
Deputy Director of the USGS

**Scientific Strategy** -- USGS is using a systems approach to look at issues in their entirety.

- \* Ecosystems
- \* Energy and Minerals – Need to keep pace with technology
- \* Natural Hazards – Understanding processes and prediction
- \* Environmental Health – New chemicals such as pharmaceuticals
- \* Water Availability
- \* Climate and Land Use Change
- \* Core Science System

**Priorities**

- \* Earthquake Early Warning – 30 seconds
- \* Resource Assessment
- \* 3- Dimensional Elevation Program
- \* Water Availability
- \* Environmental Health
- \* Seismic Mapping -- Annual instead of decadal
- \* Coastal Storm Surge Demarcation – Use of “rapidly mobilized gages.” The USGS used 40 instruments during Hurricane Matthew.
- \* National Ground-Water Modeling Framework
- \* National Water Quality Network – Build a network from existing networks
- \* Real Time Monitoring – Increase parameters monitored such as chlorophyll (algae blooms)

## **Status and Future**

- \* 8,100 Stream Gages
- \* Coop Program – Focusing on issues such as water availability and water quality
- \* National Research Program – Will remain strong
- \* National Weather Service (NWS) – Will have 2,700 river-forecasting sites
- \* Funding – FY 2016 had a record of Reimbursable Funds that exceeded Appropriated Funds
- \* Emphasis on QA/QC – Some “Black Eyes” in other Disciplines.
- \* Quarterly meetings are held with NWS and COE. Relationship with EPA is improving.



William 'Bill' Wolfe  
Associate for Hydrologic Investigations  
Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center

Presented information on the reorganization of the Southeast Region. The following is a brief summary of Bill's talk:

## **Reorganization** -- 3 Science Centers

- \* LMGCS (TN, MS, AR, AL, LA)
- \* Florida and Puerto Rico
- \* South Atlantic (NC, SC, GA)

## **Need for Reorganization**

- \* Staffing decline in states from losing funds
- \* Minimal investigations in smaller states where programs were as high as 75% Data.
- \* Missed scientific opportunities
- \* Boom and bust funding cycles
- \* Rising salary/budget ratios

## **Goals**

- \* Facilitate scientific collaboration
- \* Encourage science at broader special scale
- \* Improve fiscal resiliency

## **Difficulties**

- \* Different office histories
- \* Skepticism of staffs and partners – States are beginning to understand the needs and benefits of the reorganization. Because hydrologic boundaries do not stop at state borders, many studies need a regional approach. Partners now realize USGS has staff available to adequately address the pressing issues in their states and the region.
- \* Remote supervision – Work in progress.

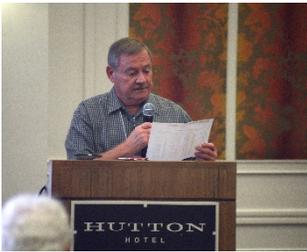
## **Opportunities**

- \* Robust program size
- \* Diverse program
- \* Ability to take risks
- \* Leverage of resources
- \* Confidence to think big

## **Science Directions**

- \* Water use science
- \* Ecological hydrology
- \* Lower Mississippi River sediment and nutrient dynamics

- \* Gulf-wide assessments
- \* Gaps in streamflow data
- \* Differences between man induced versus natural causes



The Business Meeting also included a necrology narration by Herb Freiberger, Tom Yorke and Andy Anderson of Retiree members and spouses who passed away since the last reunion. In total there were 105 names were read (*the Necrology List can be found on page 12*). Sadly, the list was too long.

**IT Meeting** --The IT group at the Reunion was small in number but high in information exchange. Because of the small number of people attending, a more intimate approach was warranted. Instead of having speakers or demonstrations, each attendee was asked to tell what had been happening in his/her life, focusing on personal experiences. One person collected John Deere equipment, another person helped with dog and cat rescues; and another person had a charity that collected money each year that was donated to needy local children who were taken Christmas shopping at Target. Each person seemed to enjoy what they had chosen to do, even those who still had a day job.

The group then participated in a spirited competition in Distributed Information System (DIS) Jeopardy with five categories: What's In A Name, First SA, Prime/DG, Where Is It, and Miscellaneous. Just like the real Jeopardy, if a person answered a question correctly he/she earned between 100 to 500 points. After all the questions were answered, the points were totaled and each contestant decided how many points to wager in the bonus round. The "Bonus Question" was the total number of NCTMs/ITEMs. Kim Rogers beat Loren Kloft by 200 points to win the prize -- a box of Tennessee's Bacon Brittle.

### IT Group



**Back row:** Mark Hamill (HQ), Loren Kloft (KY), Richard Bow (IN), Jerry Feese (KS), Kim Rogers (HQ)  
**Front row:** Lori Weir (TN), Pat McAlwee (HQ), Glenn Doonan (TX), Kate Flynn (HQ), Gail Kalen (FL)

**Mansion at Fontanel  
Nashville, TN**



**Reunion Representative (kneeling):** Charles Gamble

**1<sup>st</sup> Group of Six Individuals (left):** Linda and Darwin Knockenmus, Gerry Feese and Robin Swindell, Laurie Weir, Nick Calvin

**2<sup>nd</sup> Group of Eight Individuals (center):** David and Linda Appel, Dave and Laurel Click, Mark Hamill, Steve Hindall, Judy and Ken Lindskov in the back

**3<sup>rd</sup> Group of Eight Individuals (far right):** Sandra Hindall, Sheri and Dick Swisshelm, Rosann Sherrill, Craig Hutchinson, Mary Anderson, Tai Hutchinson, Andy Anderson

## TASTE OF TENNESSEE WHISKEY TOUR

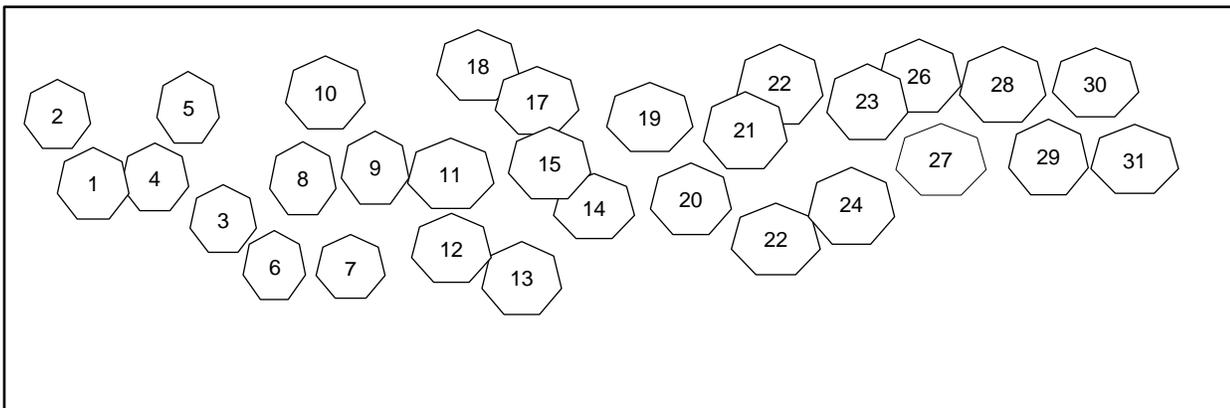


### Numbers = Names

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. & 2. JoAnne & Steve Sorenson | 18. Mark Eaton                       |
| 3. & 4. Linda & Jeff Stoner     | 19. Jerry Lowery                     |
| 5. Mike Bradley                 | 20. Elaine Gockel                    |
| 6. & 7. Pete & Joyce Anttila    | 21. & 22. Linda & Bill Carswell      |
| 8. & 9. Marion & Bill Herb      | 23. G. Lynn Barr                     |
| 10. Jack Carmichael             | 24. Charlene Smith                   |
| 11. Billy Kaufman*              | 25. & 26. Pat & Bob Hammond          |
| 12. Jim Nicholas                | 27. Bob Burchett                     |
| 13. Jack Fisher                 | 28. Dan Gockel                       |
| 14. & 15. Roger and De De Lee   | 29. & 30. Mary Jean & Derrill Cowing |
| 16. Kate Flynn                  | 31. Mike Mallory                     |
| 17. Debi Treseder               |                                      |

\*owner of Short Mountain Distillery

**NOTE:** *Micki & John Singer, and Dan Fitzpatrick were absent for the photo*



## BANQUET



Pete Anntilla  
Reunion Chairman



**L to R:** Bill Werkheiser, Jeannie Yorke, Joyce Biesecker, Pat Freiburger



**L to R:** Sheri and Dick Swisshelm, Linda Carswell



**First Time Retiree Attendees**  
**L to R:** Patricia Lietman, Roger Lee, Jim Kircher (President),  
Kate Flynn, Mark Hamill, Jeff Stoner, Jerry Lowery



**OLDEST & YOUNGEST RETIREE'S  
ATTENDEES**  
Hal Langford and Mark Hamill

**CANDID PHOTOS**



**REGISTRATION**  
Mary Jean Cowing and Pat Hammond



**1<sup>st</sup> NIGHT ICE BREAKER**  
Paula Blakey, Bill Herb, Ken Lindskov



**L to R: Steve Hindall, Sandra Hindall, Rea Wiruscheske and Paul Rohne**



**L to R: Tom Yorke and Jack Fischer**

**L to R:** Laurel Armbruster, Jeff Armbruster, and Jim Nicholas



**GROUP GATHERING  
OF PA DISTRICT RETIREES  
(and Bill Werkheiser)**



**L to R:** Jeff Armbruster, Bill Herb, Janice Ward, Jeff Stoner, Bill Werkheiser, Pat Lietman, Dave Click, Tom Yorke

Even though the numbers were small, those attending had a good time and were happy to exchange remembrances of past events.

Photographs taken at the Reunion are located in a “Dropbox” folder named, “**18thReunion.pics**”. To access the folder, you need to have a “**Dropbox**” account and to send an email to Pete Anttila ([petejoycea@frontiernet.net](mailto:petejoycea@frontiernet.net)) requesting to share the folder.

A special thanks goes to Pat Tucci and Zelda Bailey for their excellent photographs taken at the Hotel events. We have also added a few photographs by Lee Case, which have been added to the photo ‘Dropbox’.

Lastly, a successful reunion is dependent on a dedicated and productive Local Arrangement Committee (LAC).

The 18th Reunion LAC members (Charles and Rebel Gamble, Jim and Ruthie Baker, Lori Weir, Jerry Lowery, Bob Burchett, Gwen Hoover, Joyce Anttila, and Pat Hammond) were outstanding.

## Attaboy for the Nashville Local Arrangements Committee

The USGS Retirees recently enjoyed a great time in Nashville, TN at our reunion. Pete Anttila and his Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) deserve our thanks for all the work needed to make this event a success. Despite a turnout that was lower than expected, and with much sweat and maybe a few tears, Pete and the LAC succeeded in giving us a wonderful time. He even was able to stay within budget and return funds to the treasury. Thanks again, Pete!

**Your LAC Members:** Charles and Rebel Gamble (TN), Jim Baker (TN), Jerry Lowery (TN), Gwen Hoover (TN), Bob Burchett (TX), Lori Weir (Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center), and Pete and Joyce Anttila (TN)



**Left to Right:** Jim Baker, Charlie Gamble, Rebel Gamble, Jerry Lowery, Bob Burchett, Lori Weir, Pete and Joyce Anttila

## NECROLOGY LIST (2014-2016)

This is a list of members (M), affiliates (A), widows and widowers (W), and spouses (SP) of members and affiliates. In some, cases where the year is prior to 2014, notification was received after the 2016 WRD Retirees Directory (42<sup>st</sup> Edition, May 2016) was printed. The list also includes several former members (FM) and other retirees (non-members - NM).

Anderson, Warren	(85)	7 May 2015	Lowry, Marlin E.	(NM)	12 Jan 2015
Arnow, Lois A. (Theodore)	(SP)	14 Dec 2014	Lusby, Gregg C.	(NM)	4 Jan 2016
Arnow, Theodore 'Ted'	(86)	18 Dec 2014	Lys, Myron N.	(90)	30 Jun 2015
Barbash, Jack	(NM)	7 Sep 2015	McGavock, Edwin 'Ed'	(93)	14 Mar 2016
Beamer, Evelyn H. (Norman)	(W)	11 Mar 2015	McKenzie, Stuart W. 'Stu'	(97)	15 Sep 2016
Bedford, David R. 'Dave'	(NM)	15 Mar 2015	McKinney, Jean E.	(NM)	15 May 2016
Bloyd, Richard M. 'Dick'	(90)	7 Oct 2015	Melendez, Carolyn (Frank)	(SP)	17 Nov 2014
Buchanan, Thomas J. 'Tom'	(86)	28 Nov 2014	Melendez, Frank	(NM)	5 Dec 2014
Burmeister, Ivan L.	(85)	6 Oct 2016	Mercer Jr., James 'Jim'	(NM)	11 Mar 2015
Butcher Sr., Michael T.	(92)	19 Dec 2015	Monis, John P.	(85)	10 Jun 2016
Chase, Edith B.	(94)	1 Jan 2014	Moore, Unetta 'Dickie' (John E.)	(SP)	9 Feb 2015
Cheney, Marguerite E. 'Maggie'	(NM)	1 May 2016	Morris, Frank O. 'Red'	(NM)	3 Jan 2014
Clark, William E. 'Bill'	(NM)	30 Jan 2016	Musser, Nancy (John J.)	(SP)	7 Sep 2015
Cook, Joan (James L.)	(W)	29 Nov 2015	Narducci, Dorothy A.	(83)	7 Jun 2015
Counts, Harlan B.	(NM)	15 Oct 2014	Nethaway Jr., Charles D.	(05)	22 Oct 2014
Covay, Kenneth J. 'Ken'	(06)	3 Sep 2015	Norris, Stanley E.	(81)	6 Apr 2015
Crook, Jennie E.	(10)	19 Aug 2015	Olmsted, Franklin H. 'Frank'	(88)	14 Mar 2015
Daniels, Dorothy W. (Warren)	(W)	26 Aug 2015	Ordazzo, Nancy I.	(94)	11 Nov 2014
Darmer Sr., Kenneth I.	(76)	28 May 2015	Palmer, John R.	(93)	29 Jul 2014
DeBuchananne, Mary (George)	(W)	4 Nov 2015	Patten, Eugene P. 'Gene'	(90)	12 Jul 2015
Dingman, Robert J. 'Bob'	(82)	19 Jun 2016	Petersen, Mervin S. 'Merv'	(80)	17 Aug 2015
Dingman, Virginia M. (Robert J.)	(SP)	23 Jan 2016	Piro, Joseph P. 'Joe'	(NM)	2 Aug 2016
Dreher, Geraldine E. 'Gerry'	(NM)	5 Sep 2014	Pope, William Dory	(NM)	18 Jun 2015
Duwelius, Richard F.	(NM)	29 May 2015	Preble, Janet C. (Duane)	(NM)	20 Dec 2015
Ebling, John L. 'Lou'	(89)	18 Jun 2016	Price, Donald 'Don'	(87)	9 Aug 2016
Ewart III, Charles J.	(98)	3 Jan 2015	Randick, Philip G.	(NM)	15 Apr 2016
Fitzpatrick, Maria E. (Daniel)	(SP)	3 Nov 2015	Rawson, Velma (Jack)	(SP)	4 Aug 2015
Foxworthy, Bruce L.	(82)	17 Jan 2015	Rettman, Paul L.	(92)	9 Feb 2015
Francis, Glenn D.	(NM)	2 Jun 2015	Richardson, Claire A.	(80)	24 Dec 2015
Gaydos, Len	(NM)	~2015	Rodis, Harry G.	(NM)	11 Jan 2016
Gill, Harold E.	(86)	4 May 2016	Rogers, Robert J. 'Bob'	(06)	19 Apr 2016
Greeman, Theodore K. 'Kim'	(NM)	11 Apr 2015	Rose, Lola Jane	(NM)	13 Jul 2015
Griscom, Andrew 'Andy'	(NM)	21 Jun 2015	Searles, Rita M. (Gordon H.)	(W)	27 Mar 2016
Grossman, Irving G. 'Butch'	(86)	18 Jul 2015	Shanahan, Harold P.	(NM)	13 Jul 2015
Gunter, Herman C.	(NM)	24 Jun 2012	Shelton, Wallace F. 'Pete'	(91)	11 Feb 2015
Guyton, William F. 'Bill'	(50)	2 Mar 2013	Showen, Charles R.	(87)	13 Mar 2015
Harris, David D.	(83)	11 Mar 2015	Silwiak, Matthew J. 'Matt'	(NM)	31 Jul 2015
Hauth, Leland D.	(89)	14 Oct 2014	Slack, Keith V.	(90)	3 Jan 2016
Heath, Ralph C.	(NM)	12 Jan 2015	Smith, Ernest W.	(NM)	20 Aug 2015
Helmer, Marion	(NM)	1 Jul 2015	Stauffer, Peter H.	(NM)	10 Mar 2016
Hood, James W. 'Jim'	(84)	12 Aug 2011	Stevens, Elaine (Herbert H.)	(W)	10 Dec 2015
Hutchinson, Richard 'Rick'	(NM)	26 Jan 2016	Stewart, James A. 'Jim'	(06)	19 Sep 2015
Jones, Bobby Dean	(NM)	7 Jan 2016	Stocker, Barbara E.	(NM)	8 Dec 2015
Jordan, Carolyn (Paul R.)	(SP)	7 Mar 2014	Tanaka, Harry	(76)	13 Aug 2014
Kelly, Todd M.	(NM)	2 Aug 2016	Teasdale, Warren E.	(90)	7 Oct 2015
Kinnison, Patricia (Hallard B.)	(W)	1 Apr 2014	Twenter, Floyd R.	(NM)	18 Apr 2016
Koester, Irene (Harry E.)	(W)	23 Dec 2014	Vivit Sr., Davison W.	(10)	1 Jun 2011
Kurklin, Joanne	(NM)	12 Dec 2015	Walker, Patrick N. 'Pat'	(85)	9 Sep 2015
Laidlaw, Glenn	(12)	22 Feb 2015	Wallace, Joseph C. 'Joe'	(NM)	26 Jan 2015
LeCain, Frances M. (Gary)	(NM)	10 Sep 2015	Welborn, Clarence T. 'CT'	(85)	19 Nov 2015
Lee, Floyd E.	(95)	11 Jun 2015	Wilbourn, Sammy Lee	(99)	15 Feb 2015
Lenfest, Leah (Leslie W. 'Lee')	(SP)	23 Dec 2014	Young, Loren E.	(86)	23 Nov 2014
			Young, Renee (Loren E.)	(SP)	23 Sep 2014

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Ann Ardis** writes: Thank you for keeping me on the retirees' list despite my tardiness in paying dues. May the Lord bless you and yours. Enclosed please find a check to cover my dues until 2018. Cheers.



**Steve Blanchard** writes: Greetings from Ireland. My wife Julia and I moved to Ireland in September 2014. We live in Douglas, Republic of Ireland - a suburb of Cork, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Ireland. We help with church work and ministry at Douglas Baptist Church. We have loved living in Ireland, learning the culture, seeing all the beautiful historic and scenic sites, and learning the Irish version of English. We have been able to travel some in Europe, using Ireland as a base. On a recent trip in October, we went to Strasbourg, France to visit fellow WRD retiree **Richard Coupe**, his wife Anne, and their daughter Denver. We had a great few days together seeing the beautiful countryside, wine vineyards, castles, and cute French villages. See attached picture of Richard and I at a castle on the top of a "mountain". We are able to make about 2 trips a year back to the States to visit family and friends. We just traveled back to the States in November 2016 and got to see our 6<sup>th</sup>

grandchild.

**Kent Crawford** writes: Hi, Enclosed is a check for two years of dues. Thanks for all you do for the Retirees group. Also, a "newsy" note is enclosed and an electronic version is sent to the web address. Thanks

**Electronic Version:** Hi to all my fellow USGS Retirees. Retirement for me has been much busier than I expected, mostly with home improvement projects and routine household chores. Also, I have been appointed to Pennsylvania's Water Resources Advisory Committee for the Department of Environmental Protection and have taken a couple of on-line courses – one on energy and one on Geographic Information Systems. I am a member of two local environmental organizations and most recently prepared two proposals, one for a stream rehabilitation project and one for a scientific study of dissolved oxygen and temperature in a local trout stream. The stream rehab project was funded and the DO and temperature study was not. My health is good, attributed in part to daily walks (1.5 miles +/-) with our two beagles, Chaos and Riot. Bev has "retired" of sorts, but mostly that means she is not going in to campus daily. She is still active in professional organizations with academic writing. Also, she has been elected to the Board of Trustees for her alma mater, Thiel College. All in all, life is good. Hope you all have a wonderful 2017.

**Jim French** writes: I didn't know I was in arrears. Sorry about that. I sent a check on February 2, 2016 which was cashed on March 4, 2016. Maybe that was for 2015. Here is a check for 2016 and 2017 and some for the kitty. We all appreciate the work the volunteers do. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I am busy paying back my kids for all, or most, of my gray hairs: I sponge off a daughter near Yosemite for six months, then irritate another daughter in southern Arizona for the winter. I'll get around to the others as quick as I can! Life's good!! My best wishes to you all.

**Marvin Fretwell** writes: Dear Cathy -- I'm glad to read that the USGS Retirees have such a good replacement Treasurer! I hope all is well with you and yours. Enclosed are my dues for 2017-2018. I am so happy to still be here to pay them. This time last year I was busy putting my affairs all in order in anticipation of expiring shortly. My doctors diagnosed me with biliary duct liver cancer. Thank goodness, they were wrong! I had a severe liver abscess, so severe it cost me almost half of my liver (left lobe). But it was not cancerous, so I have a new lease on life, and I feel better than I have for several years. It is always good to receive each newsletter. I always look forward to hearing about my friends and colleagues in USGS. Thanks to all of you who put so much effort into keeping us informed.

**Georgina dePineiro** writes: Best regards from Puerto Rico. I'm still alive and kicking.

**Herb Johnston** writes: Enclosed is a check for my dues. Did not realize I was so far behind. Hopefully, there is enough to cover me through 2018. I would pay up for a year or two more, but I have already lived beyond my 'use by' date. Thank you all for the good work you do!

**Cindy Jones, Sara Reker and Lalla Jones (daughters of Suzy Jones)** write: We wanted to let you know that Suzy died this summer. She lived a very complete 91 years with a loving extended family, lots of good friends and many adventures. Complications from arthritis in her neck compromised her mobility and caused her great pain. Hospice was able to relieve the pain and Mom was able to let go. She loved receiving mail from friends all over the world, especially at Christmas time. Your correspondence with Mom gave her great pleasure over the years. We thank you for your friendship with her. Sincerely Suzy's daughter -- *(please reference 'Memorial' page 25')*



**Rick Iwatsubo** writes: I put a check in the mail for my dues through 2018 and hopefully you have received it. It has been awhile since I have reported anything, so here are a few lines. All is going well for me. Life is simple and I continue to enjoy my time on the ocean trying to catch giant yellowfin tuna. This year I managed to catch a 238 pounder ..... "Jackass" luck works every time, ha, ha.

**Deannie Le Roux** writes: This is to inform you that Edmund (ED) F. Le Roux passed away on November 16, 2016. He was 91 years old. Sincerely Deannie *(please reference 'Memorials' page 25)*

**Libby Meyer** writes: Jerry has not been well this past couple of years. He has such fond memories of his many years with WRD and his many friends. Best wishes to all. *(Jerry passed on December 11, 2016, please reference 'Memorials' page 25)*

**Gerald Rockwell** writes: I highly recommend retirement. Toni and I spend a good deal of time traveling. This year we spent 7 weeks in Spain, France, and Italy. I would say Spain was our favorite. People very friendly, food is excellent, bike riding spectacular, and it is quite cheap. We took another two-week camping trip up into Oregon and ended up at the Pendleton roundup. I highly recommend at least one visit to this event. Lake Tahoe continues to treat us well. We ski, bike, hike, canoe, BBQ and chase the grand-kids around. Toni works her fused glass art and I am on a board for a local non-profit. Life is good and life is busy.

**Tim Rowe** writes: Hello again for the end of 2016. Please note that last email from you attached a 2016 membership list. Only problem was that I was not listed at all. Note my most recent paper mailing says I am current till 2017 and I have been a member since I retired in August 2012. Just curious why I did not show up on the current list. I certainly still want to remain current. Here is my check to 2017 dues and for some extra. Please change my delivery to electronic delivery. I have requested this change for a few years but a paper copy still comes in the mail. Please save the organization money by just sending it to me on the computer. My news - in a nut shell: I still am employed full time as a Transportation Planner/Analyst for the Nevada Department of Transportation in Carson City, NV. I am in the Multi-Modal section and Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. One of my jobs is serving as State Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Big accomplishment this year was organizing the 2016 Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Summit at Lake Tahoe last month with 150 attending. I am also very active in Boy Scouts with my son and serve as Assistant Scout Master with our Troop and Finance Chair of the Pinenut District. Big accomplishment this year is that my son and I attained Brotherhood level in the Order of the Arrow. Still also heavily involved in bicycling with riding and advocacy. New this year is being involved with Douglas High School Music Booster, as my son is in Marching, Jazz and concert bands as a freshman. The deal there is that the marching band is going to the Holiday Bowl in San Diego, CA on December 27, 2015. They will play in the parade and at halftime and I get to go as a chaperone! My wife is

still the Assistant Clerk of the Court for the Nevada Supreme Court. She even applied to fill an interim vacancy for Supreme Court Justice but did not quite make it. We have had great trips to San Francisco, Carmel, Zion National Park, Antelope Canyon, Flagstaff, Sedona, Crater Laker, Oregon Caves, the Oregon Coast and Death Valley National Park this year so far. Thanks again for all the good work and keep the news coming!

**John Singer** writes: Greetings to all from beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, VA. Just got back from the reunion in Nashville and still enjoying the "spirits" that we brought back from the wonderful bus tour of the distilleries. Grand Ol' Opry was also a great time. In spite of the drought, our lake is full but the temperatures have dictated that the boat be put away for the winter; very sad indeed! I'm giving up working in the local emergency department on December 31<sup>st</sup> and it is almost like a second retirement. Micki and I continue to be very active in our local rescue squad and actually have a few more cardiac "saves" to our credit at this time. Kids are doing great as well as the many grand-kids; next thing you know we will be great grandparents!! Hope all is well with those that did not make it to Nashville and look forward to seeing everyone again in Minnesota in 2018. Take care.....

**Wayne Solley** writes: Please accept Lory and my resignation from the WRD retirees' organization.

**Dennis Stewart** writes: This is wishing all retirees a Christmas filled with much holiday cheer with family and friends, and a happy and healthy 2017. As I look back over the years, I feel fortunate to have enjoyed 34 years with the USGS, a really class federal agency. With the loss of my wife almost 3 years ago, I have spent a considerable amount of time playing golf and enjoying the camaraderie of many friends and even spending 3 or 4 months in Palm Beach during the winter months to continue my passion for golf. A check is enclosed that includes my dues through 2017 for a newsletter that is so nice to receive.

**Carole Thomas** writes: Thank you for all the good work with the retiree newsletter. I enjoy all of the articles.

**Chester Thomas** writes: Greetings from Connecticut! I am enclosing a check for my dues (2017) and the rest to the scholarship fund, or to help needed expenses. Thanks for the Newsletter. Keep it up. Not much going on here. Have slowed down quite a bit. Season greeting to all USGS people.

**John Zogorski** writes: Nancy finally retired this past May so we celebrated by going to the 100th running of the Indy 500, along with 3 of my children and 5 grand kids. What a fantastic race and time spent back in Indiana. We started CY 2016 with a 5-week trip in January to Kailua-Kona and wonderful days on the Pacific fishing for whatever would bite...including the landing of a 327 lb. Blue Marlin on LindaSue4. In October, we visited 2 of my siblings and their spouses in Venice, Florida with lots of beach time, excellent dinning, and a lot of family discussions. Finally, we again are visiting Kailua-Kona to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary and for the first time will celebrate both Christmas and New Years in Hawaii. CY 2016 has been a year of special travel for us and, in part, celebrating full recovery of my health (in 2015) from a near-fatal case of acute appendicitis, that occurred shortly after I retired in May 2014. Sure hope everyone has a great CY 2017.

#### **Miscellaneous News:**

**Jacob Pascoe (Hydro Tech Scholarship Winner)** writes: Dear USGS Retirees: Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the USGS Retirees Association scholarship. Your generosity will go a long way towards furthering my education. I am honored and humbled by your selection, and offer you my greatest thanks. Thank you and God Bless. Sincerely, Jacob

**MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS**

**RETIREES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**December 5, 2016**

**Amphora Diner – Herndon, VA**



Helene and Bill Mann



Hal Langford



Tim and Ellen Smith



Shirley and Bill Boning



Jim Devine and Peggy McCafferty  
(Director's Office)



**L to R: John Stanton, John Keith (GD),  
and Andy Anderson**

## RETIREMENTS



**George Aiken** after nearly 40 years of distinguished service retired on December 1, 2016. George joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in March 1976 with the Central Region of the National Research Program (NRP) in Denver, CO. Before joining USGS, George earned a B.A. degree in Chemistry from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. From 1976 to 1979, George worked with NRP's Organic Hydrogeochemistry Project, and it was then that he first encountered what would become the focus of his 40-year research career: unraveling the complexities of the importance of natural organic matter on controlling aqueous biogeochemistry of groundwater and surface water. Early in his research career with USGS, George focused on the design of new chromatographic techniques for isolating humic substances from natural waters, the movement of organic solutes in groundwater, and the effects of humic substances on water purification systems. Also during this time, George completed a M.S. in Analytical Chemistry at the

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. In 1980 George returned to the East Coast for two years, serving as a Research Assistant in the Dartmouth College Biology Department where he studied the effects of acid rain on soil solution chemistry in the Adirondacks of upstate New York. However, George's love for the Rocky Mountains caused him to return to the USGS NRP Central Region in 1981, where he stayed for the remainder of his career. During the early 1980's, George spent considerable time traveling great distances in a mobile water quality lab studying seasonal and geographical differences in aquatic dissolved organic carbon (DOC) across the United States. It was during this time that he also garnered an encyclopedic understanding of the streams, watersheds and landscapes of the conterminous United States. For those fortunate to have a chance discussion with George, he called upon those experiences to help others understand the factors controlling surface water quality across the United States. George also took several tours to Antarctica, where he studied DOC in lakes and streams, one of which bears his name. Typical of his dedication and love of his work, George over-wintered twice in Antarctica to ensure he would be able to study the full range of conditions in the harshest environment on the planet. In 1991, he achieved a lifetime goal by completing the requirements for a Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry (Minor in Geologic Engineering) from the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO. His interests range widely in both spatial and topical emphasis: from understanding the implications of thawing permafrost on DOC transport in the Yukon Basin, to the importance of DOC on regulating the availability of mercury for methylation and bioaccumulation in the aquatic food web of the Florida Everglades –and many avenues between and beyond. In addition to an accomplished research career, George served the USGS in many capacities throughout his career. Among them, he helped initiate the USGS Drinking Water Initiative, actively advised and worked with the NAWQA, NASQAN, Toxics and WEBB programs, facilitated such diverse projects as the Yukon River Basin Initiative and the Sacramento River/San Francisco Bay Delta Carbon Studies, and served on an advisory basis to large-scale restoration efforts in the Florida Everglades and in California's Bay-Delta. He was constantly asked by outside groups to come speak on his favorite topic (DOC!), where he would capture his audience with great science, well-timed humor, but always a strong voice of appreciation for the opportunities offered by a career at USGS. His investigations are of such relevance that they led to the formation of the International Humic Substances Society, and George has played an integral role in making standard and reference DOM isolates available world-wide. George advised over 20 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, served on numerous thesis committees, served as an editor of peer reviewed journals, and has been a mentor to many young scientists as well as those new to the mysteries of DOC. During his distinguished career, George has published 148 peer-reviewed journal articles which have been cited 11,256 times (and counting), resulting in a h-index of 56. The outstanding quality of his work and collaborations has earned him the continuous respect of his colleagues and the Department's Meritorious Service Award in 2002, reflecting his dedication to the goals of the USGS and the Department of the Interior. He has consistently put scientific integrity and the good of his employees, the NRP, and the USGS above his career gains. ***(George passed away on December 7, 2016 -- please reference 'Memorial' page 24)***



**Mark T. Anderson**, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center for North Dakota and South Dakota and a Rapid City native, retired on September 30, 2016, after 42.5 years working for the federal government. Mark began his career in Rapid City, SD with the U.S. Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Experiment Station, and transferred to the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon. Mark began his USGS career in Rapid City, SD in 1985. After assignments in Tucson, Arizona as the associate director of the Arizona Water Science Center, and in Washington D.C. as a senior policy analyst in the Executive Office of the President supporting the president's science advisor, he returned to Rapid City in 2006 as the director of the USGS South Dakota Water Science Center. During his 32-year USGS career, Anderson also served as chairman of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, and held assignments as the acting director of the USGS Northern Prairie

Wildlife Research Center, the USGS Nevada Water Science Center and the USGS Earth Resources Observations and Science (EROS) Center, the largest science center in the USGS. A retirement celebration for Mark was held on November 17, 2016 in Rapid City, SD.



**Wayne Berkas** after 38 years of Federal Service, retired on January 3, 2017. Wayne attended the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota, and discovered there were no forestry jobs when he graduated 1976. So, he enrolled at the University of Arizona and received a Masters' Degree in Watershed Management in 1978. Upon graduation, he was hired by the U.S. Geological Survey, Missouri District in Rolla, MO. There, he learned the USGS process of collecting data and writing reports. In Missouri he worked on sediment and waste-load projects. In 1989, he moved to the North

Dakota District in Bismarck, ND. There, he again worked on sediment and waste-load projects. He also became the District Water-Quality Specialist. In 2002, Wayne moved to the Montana District in Helena, MT where he became the Data Chief. He has worked in that capacity until his retirement. In Missouri, Wayne met and married Tammy, who has stayed with him and put up with his odd sense of humor. They have a son, who was in the Navy and is now going to college. Wayne is not sure what he wants to do when he retires, but first on his list is pull a Rip Van Winkle and sleep. When he wakes up he intends to do some wood-working projects and updates to his house. He jokingly was also was thinking of getting a business degree from Trump University. Wayne has met some great people and made some great friends while working at the USGS. While reminiscing, he noted that most of them are retired, or have passed. He figured he should retire now while others outside the WY-MT Center still remember him.



**Greg Clark** began his professional career with undergraduate studies at Southern Illinois University. There, his pursuits led to a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, and more concentrated pursuits led to his wife Cindy and son Eric. Also during this Southern Illinois period, Greg took up rock climbing and mountaineering, bagging all the high peaks of southern Illinois. However, having paid some attention in the classes he actually attended in pursuit of his studies (amongst those other pursuits), Greg learned that while Illinois may be the land of Lincoln, it actually was not the land of high mountains. So he talked Cindy into heading off to Colorado where he began his USGS career as a GS-3 Hydrologic Field Assistant, amongst graduate study at Colorado State University. After graduating in 1988, Greg joined the Colorado District as a Hydrologist, where he began working on an assortment of hydrologic studies. However, Colorado only had so many peaks to bag, and in

1991 the Clark family (now expanded to 4 with daughter Molly) moved to Boise, ID where Greg dove into the upper Snake River NAWQA National Water Quality Assessment studies. Once in Boise, the Clarks set down roots, with the family expanding to 5 with daughter Emily. While Cindy worked her way up the Boise State University faculty, Greg's curiosity lead him to many influential studies throughout greater Idaho. These included authoring studies on pesticide and nutrient trends in the Mississippi River, the mysteries of the Thousand Springs in Idaho, the glaciers of the Wind Rivers, arsenic in Bangladesh, snow surveys and stream gaging in Iraq, lead and zinc wrangling in Coeur d'Alene, dumping bromine in the streams east of Yellowstone, chasing sediments in the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers in Idaho and the Rio Bio in Chile, assembling a mercurial dream team investigating the workings of a "tertiary sewage treatment plant" also known as the Hells Canyon Dam complex, and many more than we can remember. To further inspire (or turn green with envy) his colleagues, Greg took time to bag the high peaks of the Andes, and with Brother Art, canoed and kayaked more rivers and lakes in the north of Canada and Alaska than we could keep track of. As Greg rose up the ranks in the Idaho Water Science Center from NAWQA Hydrologist, to Data Chief, to Studies Chief, he always managed to lead by example, keeping science central, and he waded cheerfully (mostly) through the ever increasing avalanche of administrative duties. However, after a mere 32 years in the USGS, and only 25 at the Idaho Water Science Center, Greg has decided that he would rather make his own decisions about when wearing a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) would be a good idea. It's hard to go to work every day when there are so many rivers yet to float and peaks to climb, overseas family visits, and many more adventures to pursue. Thanks, good luck, and have fun.



**Dr. Tom Cuffney** retired on September 30, 2016, to spend a lot more time fishing the trout streams of North Carolina and fishing/hiking around Colorado and Wyoming, where two of his three children now reside. Many of you have met and worked with Tom over the years and come to anticipate—and actually appreciate—the quick-witted responses and dry puns that season most of his conversations. Tom was hired in September 1990 as a Headquarters employee assigned to the North Carolina District. He was hired by Marty Gurtz as part of the NC Ecology Group and charged with writing the NAWQA ecological sampling protocols (fish, invertebrates, algae, and habitat) along with Stephen Porter and Cliff Hupp. Along with Alison

Brigham and Stephen Moulton, Tom helped establish the Biological Unit at the NWQL. Tom worked with the NC Ecology Group and Regional Biologists to provide regional training to NAWQA biologists for Cycle I of the NAWQA Program and worked with NAWQA management on the Cycle I National NAWQA design. In 2000, Tom joined the North Carolina District and continued to work with NAWQA on the development of the urban studies portion of NAWQA Cycle II, and he taught workshops on designing the NAWQA urban studies and analyzing the results. In 2002, Tom became the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound (ALBE) NAWQA biologist and led the ALBE urban land-use gradient studies. In 2006, Tom

became the lead biologist on the “Effects of urbanization on stream ecosystems study” (EUSE), which analyzed and published results for the 9 NAWQA urban gradient studies. This led to a very productive collaboration with Song Qian and Duke University that resulted in several reports and journal articles offering national perspectives on the effects of urbanization, emphasizing common responses and regional differences. Most recently, Tom led and supported the ecological response modeling activities for the National Water Census Coastal Carolinas and Delaware River Focus Area Studies, respectively. Throughout his career, Tom has taught many national and regional ecological training classes such as “Concepts in Aquatic Ecology” and “Multivariate Analysis of Hydrological, Biological, and Chemical Data.” He has been actively involved with the North American Benthological Society (now Society for Aquatic Science) for 38 years and served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the North American Benthological Society; as a member of the Executive Committee and the Technical Issues Committee; as a session chair; and as a student judge. Tom served as a reviewer for 11 science journals, as a technical advisor on the Biology/Microbiology Workgroup of the National Methods and Data Comparability Board, and as a member of the NC Ecological Flows Science Advisory Board. Over the years, Tom has guest-lectured at Duke University, NC State University, and the University of Maryland, and he served on graduate committees at both Duke and NC State Universities. During his tenure with the USGS, Tom has given over 50 presentations at professional meetings and published somewhere in the neighborhood of 27 reports, 16 journal articles, three proceedings, and four book chapters. Despite all of these accomplishments, perhaps the hallmark of his career was his work developing two interactive data analysis software packages: one for invertebrates (IDAS) and one for algae (ADAS). Tom's work on these packages started with Mike McNally on Data General computers through development of the Biological Data Analysis System (BDAS). However, with the demise of the Data Generals, Tom transformed the BDAS into the IDAS and ADAS software packages. These software packages were released in 2003 and are used internationally by scientists within and outside of the USGS.

**Kevin F. Dennehy**, Deputy Chief, Office of Water Quality, retired from the USGS on July 1, 2016, following 37+ years of dedicated service. Kevin has a record of significant accomplishments in the Water Mission Area, starting with his first USGS duty assignment with the New Mexico District as a project team member involved in conducting the site characterization of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site in southeastern New Mexico. Kevin has enjoyed working on several high-profile projects with some of the best technicians and scientists in the agency, across a wide range of challenging positions. After only a short time on the job, Kevin was selected to participate in the USGS Graduate Student Training Program where he attended the University of Arizona to study contaminant transport modeling. Upon completion of one-year of studies, he was assigned to the South Carolina District to be project chief of several multidisciplinary hydrologic investigations, including research on water movement in the unsaturated zone at the low-level radioactive waste burial site in Barnwell, SC, which was part of the USGS Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program and the assessment of sediment waste interactions and transport potential at the Defense Waste Processing Facility, Savannah River Plant, SC. While in South Carolina he also served as the District Groundwater Specialist. He then went on to serve as Chief, Hydrologic Studies Section of the USGS Massachusetts Office, New England District. There he managed a large, diverse studies section while conducting water resource studies as needed. Kevin continued to combine management with hydrologic research assignments and seized on an opportunity to become part of the start-up of the National Water Quality Assessment program in a dual capacity as Chief for the South Platte River Basin NAWQA Study Unit and later Section Chief, Northeastern Colorado Hydrologic Unit. The experience of building and working with a study team of high quality personnel was extremely rewarding. His next fulfilling experience came from his role as the Planning Team Leader and eventual Project Manager of the first of its kind High Plains Regional Groundwater Quality study (NAWQA). This unique regional assessment of groundwater quality covered an eight-state area in the central United States and signified a change in the NAWQA Program design to one with a regional perspective. Kevin then made a move to Reston where he was selected as National Coordinator for the Groundwater Resources Program. He was the principal expert and overall program leader with primary focus on the assessment of the Nation's groundwater availability by directing multidisciplinary regional scale studies of principal aquifers. His last and most recent assignment was with the Office of Water Quality. Kevin and his wife Marci are planning to search out a new homestead so that their daughters Kaitlin and Meghan, and families (grandchildren Ainsley and Harper) might all enjoy what is yet to come!

**Mark Hopkins**, following an illustrious 25 years and 8 months with the USGS, Mark will be easing into a life of leisure with increased trips to Thailand, camping with friends, and strengthening his relationships with local bartenders. Mark began his USGS career in 1991 at the Indianapolis office after a short stint with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Early on, Mark's work focused on bridge scour where he worked with the now retired **Bret Robinson**. Over the years, Mark has supported numerous investigative studies as a licensed driller, worked with the Hydrologic Networks section, and provided database and web support for the office. One of the more unique highlights of Mark's career was a bathymetric survey of the Bluespring Caverns in southern Indiana. Data from this project were used by internationally renowned artist Maya Lin to create a large outdoor sculpture inspired by the cavern. The intrepid crew of **Ron Knapp** and Mark Hopkins set out with an ADCP, a Tupperware container and some foam insulation prepared for a spelunking hydrographic adventure. Those who know Mark know he always enjoys infusing some dry humor into any situation to lighten the mood. Before their descent into the cave, **Scott Morlock** (Mark's supervisor at the time), got a call from Ron to check in before they started the work. Ron said that all was well, the equipment tested fine, and they were ready to go but there was one issue - Mark said that when he agreed to be on the team, he thought Scott had said "tavern" not

cavern! Despite the confusion of working in a cave instead of indulging in malted beverages, the two descended into the darkness on a leaky boat in cramped confines. They ascended triumphant and the data were used for Maya Lin's sculpture "Above and Below" which to this day is proudly displayed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. But the life of a USGS Hydrologist is not just art and high science. The need to understand some of the less savory aspects of life are also part of the job description. Mark and Ron were again teamed up, this time to support a small study for the City of Indianapolis. With ADCP's still relatively new on the scene, the City had requested some special flow measurements be done with these new, highly accurate instruments they heard the USGS had. Those measurements, however, were to determine the flow of raw effluent entering their sewage treatment plant! During one measurement, Ron remembers Mark quipping, "I think someone had pizza last night...". Mark and Ron were certainly a good team over the years. Ron remembers fondly when he first learned he would be working with Mark. Ron received some advice from his then supervisor, "Most people assigned to work with Mark end up retiring, transferring, or quitting the Survey altogether." Ron is now in Florida so it appears the legend was true! In his spare time, Mark was also a founding member of the USGS Indianapolis Adventure Lunch Club which regularly sampled exotic fare around the city. Other highlights include a brief marriage to an IT specialist, moonlighting as a French maid, Mensa member, and guiding the SantaCon Indianapolis chapter for many years. Mark was also a mentor to his colleagues and could be frequently heard saying "let me explain something to you...." In all seriousness though, Mark always set a high standard for quality and exacting work. Never one to cut corners, he always made sure that any tasks he was responsible for were completed with careful precision. Always one who could solve a problem, particularly with DECODES, Mark developed "The Da Vinci Code" to deal with the ever changing index-velocity sites. He was instrumental in creating a process for automating data calls for major cooperators, improving system functions to provide data to the public through the web reliably, and moving the Indiana digital archive during its restructure. In recognition of Mark's last day, a retirement luncheon was held on October 31, 2016.



**Vicky Kelly** retired on December 30, 2016 from the USGS after more than 20 years of service. Vicky received her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University in 1992. She worked for the MA/RI office as a student, and then in 1993, moved to a permanent position. During her early years with the Survey, she worked for the Route 28 Salt Project. When the Salt Project ended Vicky took on important database responsibilities for a wide range of projects in MA/RI: assisted many projects in MA/RI with GWSI

and QWDATA schedule entries; worked with **Kemell G. Ries** to assemble low flow measurements into a coherent database, which Kemell used to develop StreamStats; and, was asked to participate in OGW reviews across the country. Prior to the New England merger, Vicky began to acquire new responsibilities for all of New England offices: she became the NWIS Database Administrator for New England; became the QWDATA coordinator for New England; and, has also been an important participant in the NE Local Data Manager Workgroup. After the New England merger, Vicky accepted more responsibilities including: accepted lead responsibilities for IT Security Assessment and Authorization activities and Continuity of Operations Planning for the New England WSC; participated in New England WSC Data Operations planning; and, coordinated the ADAP to AQUARIUS migration clean-up efforts. In summary, Vicky has been a keystone member of the MA/RI office and the New England WSC for more than 20 years. During her tenure, she continued to accumulate important, and in some cases thankless tasks; tasks that Vicky championed. We acknowledge her significant contributions to the New England WSC, and thank her for her hard and unselfish work. A celebration dinner for Vicky's career was held on January 12, 2017 in Worcester, MA.

**Carol Lewis** retired January 3, 2017, after more than 45 years of service to the Federal Government. Carol began her career with the Department of the Interior (DOI) in 1971, and in 1972, she came to USGS where she has been an enormous asset. For 15 years she performed a critical service in the National Water Data Exchange (NAWDEx) program during an era when data retrievals requested by the public had to be done manually. During this time, Carol assisted users in retrieving data from the USGS WATSTORE system and the Environmental Protection Agency's STORET system. This work gave Carol a broad and deep knowledge of the types of water data collected by the USGS and by other agencies, as well as the types of information that are typically needed by scientists and the general public. When the advance of technology and the advent of the World Wide Web resulted in the shut-down of the NAWDEX program and its eventual replacement by the National Water Information System, Carol's knowledge about USGS water data led her to a position in the Office of Water Data Coordination, which later became the Office of Water Information. Her new position, within this group, leveraged her extensive knowledge into the Department's efforts to improve coordination among Federal and State agencies that deal with scientific information about the Nation's water resources. In 1992, when the Administration of President George H. W. Bush created the USGS Water Information Coordination Program, Carol's knowledge proved to be extremely valuable in implementing the new DOI

Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI). Since then, Carol has been a crucial member of the ACWI team. She created the ACWI website, which has grown enormously during the past two decades. Carol learned about the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which lead her to ensure that the various ACWI sub-groups remained compliant with the law. Carol has kept many of these sub-groups focused on tasks by providing advice and support for the group's chairs and members. Carol is well known by dozens of scientists and policy makers who have served on ACWI and its sub-groups, both as representatives of Federal and State government agencies, and as non-government representatives. Carol's career with the USGS has been marked by dependability and excellence. Her professionalism and dedication to accomplishing the USGS mission is evident in her work. Her sense of diplomacy and her determination to do every job thoroughly have been invaluable assets to the USGS, to ACWI, and to the general public. Her "can-do" attitude and dedication to the job are recognized and appreciated by all her colleagues. We wish Carol well as she begins the adventure of retirement!



**Kevin Metzker** is retiring after 36 and one-half years with the USGS. Kevin will be hanging up his supervisory hat for good and will review his last streamflow record on December 31, 2016. Kevin started his career in Columbus, OH but has had stops in Louisville, Kentucky and Albuquerque, New Mexico. However, Kevin missed Ohio so much that he transferred back and has been working for the former Ohio Water Science Center (now Michigan-Ohio Water Science Center) since 1996. Kevin has been a fixture in Ohio's water quality and surface water programs. In 1996, he was selected as the lead technician for the Lake Erie National Water-Quality Assessment program (NAWQA). When NAWQA ended, Kevin then transferred to the Hydraulics Section where he surveyed stream cross-sections and structures for input into HEC RAS to determine flood inundation. He was also involved in many indirect measurements and led crews in special assignments during flooding in Ohio, New York and Virginia. Kevin was then reassigned to the Surface Water section in 2005. Kevin volunteered to be on a detail back to New Mexico in August of 2010 to assist them in incorporating acoustic Doppler technology in their streamgaging operations. In October, 2012, Kevin was selected to be the Field Office Chief of the Columbus, Ohio Surface Water Section. Kevin's retirement plans include birding, hiking, cycling and spoiling grandkids. A lunch retirement celebration was held on January 20, 2017. If you wish to relay congratulations after December 31, 2016, Kevin can be contacted through snail-mail at 283 Dewfall Drive, Sunbury, OH 43074.

**Ronald L. 'Ron' Rickman** retired on December 31, 2016 from the USGS, after 34 years of service. For the last nine years, Ron has served as the Assistant Center Director for Hydrologic Data in the USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center. His dedication and commitment to providing leadership to the current and next generation of hydrographers in the collection of high-quality and timely hydrologic data in Hawaii and Guam, has been exemplary. Ron joined the federal workforce in 1976 as a Hydrologic Aid for the U.S. Forest Service in Monte Vista, CO and worked there for seven seasons. This is where he learned how to make his first discharge measurement. After earning his master's degree in chemical engineering from Lawrence University, he worked for the St. Regis Paper Company in Bucksport, ME for about a year; it was during this time that he realized what he really wanted to do. Ron began his career with the USGS in 1983 as a Hydrologist in Carlsbad, NM. When the heat finally got the best of him, he transferred to Anchorage, AK in 1985. He spent the next 10 years conducting hydrologic studies before being asked to serve as the Anchorage Field Office Chief in 1994. In 2007, Ron joined the Pacific Islands Water Science Center as the Assistant Center Director for Hydrologic Data. Ron's familiarity with hydrology and water resources, and his ability to communicate that knowledge, have been instrumental in developing effective USGS programs. We will deeply miss Ron's knowledge, positive attitude, work ethic, and sense of humor. Ron plans to enjoy the first month of his well-deserved retirement in New Zealand before moving back to Anchorage, AK in April where his heart has always been. Ron will spend his days hiking, fishing, and enjoying the great outdoors. He also plans to volunteer for USGS on a part-time basis. On behalf of many throughout USGS, we wish him joy and happiness in the years ahead. Please join us in celebrating Ron's outstanding career as he embarks on his next adventure. A retirement party will be held Friday, February 17, 2017.

**Deneise Schneider** began her career with the USGS on August 30, 1977, working in the Kansas District Data section "punching cards" (you'll have to stop by or email and ask her what that means), working on Annual Data Reports, and other database and additional duties as assigned. During her career, Deneise experienced the growth of computing processes in USGS Water Science and reporting of data. She was part of the evolution of data entry and computing in USGS from punch cards, mitron tapes, Harris computers, AMDAHLs, Pr1me, Unix/Data Generals, NWIS system 2000

entry of groundwater and original GWSI/WQDATA programs to our current data programs and configurations, NWIS web, and continuous records processing to the cusp of another transformation with the upcoming age of Aquarius. Deneise is/was our Center's Database Administrator, providing quality assurance and control in a single person (emphasis on centralized and control!) to make sure everyone was doing what needed to be done and doing it correctly! For most of her career, she has been recognized as a national leader in Annual Data Report production timeliness and quality. Deneise retired on September 30, 2016 after 39 years (and change) of service to the USGS Kansas District/Kansas Water Science Center and the Water Resources Division/Water Mission Area. The database and USGS Kansas Water Science Center won't be the same without her!



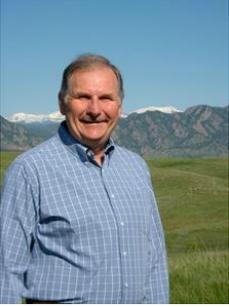
**Roy Socolow** after more than 38 years with the USGS retired on October 1, 2016. Roy, a Hydrologist with the New England Water Science Center, MA-RI Hydrologic Data and Surveillance Section, has been a fixture in the Massachusetts office since 1984. And, hopefully, maybe (probably not), will continue to be a fixture after he retires. Roy graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA with a BA in Biology and started his career with the USGS in Harrisburg, PA, as a Hydrologic Field Assistant in 1978. He helped collect and process water-quality samples and sediment samples in Harrisburg in the regional sediment lab of the time. Because the

Biology position he sought had been recently filled, Roy switched career directions from Biologist to Hydrologic Technician and was trained to make discharge measurements and compute stage and discharge records for the Harrisburg Hydrologic Surveillance Section. Between February 1978 and February 1984, Roy was responsible for operating more than 50 streamgages throughout central and northeastern PA and was included in numerous other water-quality sampling and groundwater-level monitoring projects. Roy was eventually promoted to Hydrologist in 1984 and decided shortly afterwards to transfer to the Boston, MA office so he could be close to his family and his beloved Boston Red Sox. While in the Boston office, which eventually moved to Marlborough and currently is in Northboro, Roy wore many hats (and boots). Early work included operating streamgages throughout the state, measuring groundwater levels in observation wells, and training new field staff in the science of streamgaging. Some of Roy's additional responsibilities included meeting with federal, state, and local environmental agencies to seek funding and permission to install new streamgages, establishing locations for the new streamgages, and supervising the field staff in the design and installation of the new streamgages. It's estimated that Roy was directly involved with installing or making major upgrades to more than 65 continuous-record streamgages during his tenure with the Massachusetts office, of which 42 are still in operation. After his time in the field, Roy co-authored several water-quality data reports, a groundwater-level estimation report for Rhode Island, numerous Massachusetts Data Summary reports, and was lead author on numerous Annual Water Data Reports from the late 1980s to 2004. As a co-author to the USGS Fact Sheet 2004-3049, "A Century of Service—100 Years of Continuous Streamflow-Data Collection on the Connecticut River, Montague City, MA," Roy and several others from the Massachusetts office received the Shoemaker Award for Communication Excellence (2005), which is awarded for publications that explain complex science processes in simplified terms that the general public can understand. Some of Roy's many other duties included serving on the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force, updating the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency on USGS discharge measurements and streamgage operations during flood events, and serving as liaison between the USGS and the numerous river watershed associations throughout Massachusetts. The most notable of these is the Charles River Watershed Association with whom Roy provided river data and flow interpretations of the six major Charles River streamgages since 1984. Roy was also featured in several TV interviews covering drought conditions in the area rivers in 1999, 2002, and 2012, and was also featured in a Boston Globe article, "Measuring the Mighty Charles" in April 1993. Roy, an avid angler and photographer, and his wife Mindy have always loved to travel so they will be hanging loose on the Big Island of Hawaii for a few weeks after retirement while deciding where in the world to visit next. If he gets bored when he is not in Hawaii, there will always be a desk and chair here at the office for him to come home to! A retirement dinner was held on September 22, 2016.

**David Stonestrom** retired on January 3, 2017 from the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Research Program (NRP), Water Mission Area, in Menlo Park, California after 40 years of service. Dave started his career with the USGS in 1977 as a part-time Hydrologic Field Assistant in Menlo Park, and ends his career as a GS-15 Research Hydrologist. He is a highly-valued leader and mentor of the 'Integrative Unsaturated Zone Studies' team within the NRP. Dave served as the NRP Research Coordinator of the USGS Amargosa Desert Research Site (ADRS) in Nevada from 1998 to 2016. Research near the waste-storage site has long provided benchmark information on mechanisms controlling subsurface migration and fate of contaminants in arid

environments. Dave's research has focused on processes governing fluid, solute, and energy transport through unsaturated zones in relation to groundwater recharge, pedogenesis, contaminant transport, environmental health, groundwater surface-water interactions, and evolution of hydrologic systems through time. He has conducted investigations of unsaturated zones in settings ranging from tropical mountain rainforests to outgassing alpine volcanoes and coastal wetlands to hyperarid deserts. His highly relevant work has long been published in top-tiered hydrologic journals. Over his career, Dave has provided professional advice for the USGS Unsaturated Zone Interest Group, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, and US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and he serves as co-editor of the Vadose Zone Journal. A highlight of his career was to serve on the Natural Resource Council for environmental clean-up of the Hanford Plutonium Production Site in Washington State. Throughout his career, Dave has maintained a thoroughly professional approach while dealing with many challenges ranging from metal sodium explosions at ADRS to volcanic out-gassings in Mammoth Mountain. Please join me in wishing Dave continued success in life and career beyond the USGS.

## MEMORIALS



**George Aiken, 65**, it is with a heavy heart and deep sadness that I share with you, our beloved George passed away on December 7, 2016. Over his nearly 40 years with the U.S. Geological Survey, George has endeared himself to everyone he came in contact with. His loss will be felt across the globe, especially in the Dissolved Organic Matter community. As those who knew George, he was the story teller of all story tellers. Please think about your time with George, and pass along stories - your favorite moments with him, a story he shared with you, a quote that reminds you of him, or anything else you would like to share.

Include photos if you have any, and send them to [aikenstories@gmail.com](mailto:aikenstories@gmail.com). George's family is planning a private memorial service. Please keep George's family in your thoughts.

-Kenna Butler, Acting Branch Chief  
National Research Program, Central Region



**Dirk A. Hargadine, age 55**, passed away suddenly at his home on January 3, 2017 south of Blue Rapids, KS. Dirk was born December 13, 1961 to Gerald D. and Delores A. (Austin) Hargadine in Manhattan, KS. Growing up, Dirk played sports and was a member of the Boy Scouts, earning the Eagle Scout rank. He graduated from St. George High School in 1980, then went on to graduate from Kansas State University in 1985, with a degree in Environmental Science. While in college he met, and married his wife Vicki J. Smerchek. They married on March 11, 1983 at Blue Rapids United Methodist Church. Dirk worked as a Hydrologic Technician for U.S. Geological Survey, Wichita, KS. Dirk (or "Pops" as he liked to be called by the younger staff) was a senior technician in the USGS Kansas Water Science Center hired by Jay Gillespie in 1988. Dirk worked on

many water-quality, groundwater, and surface-water studies in Kansas and throughout the US. He spent several years working as a well-driller in Kansas and Wyoming before returning to Kansas to become a full-time streamgager. Dirk was hardworking, kind, and generous to everyone he met, carrying with him an irrepressible sense of humor that made the workday fun (and productive — pity to the person who tried to outwork him). Dirk participated in several surface-water technical reviews throughout the country, served on technical committees for data collection, measured floods in North Dakota twice under some pretty difficult conditions; no matter how bad the day Dirk always had a smile on his face and a positive spin for every situation. Dirk loved training and interacting with coworkers, passing along his knowledge through tips and his many "Dirkisms". Frequently he and his family welcomed USGS people from around the country to hunt on their farm. Dirk was eager to give his time to help anyone with landscaping or any job that needed to be done. The contributions Dirk made to the USGS, his coworkers, and the staff he helped train will live on through those of us that had the privilege of having known and worked with him. He made us all better people--- in and out of work. As word of Dirk's passing spread, we have received an outpouring of emails, calls, and stories fondly remembering the gift of the time that we did have with Dirk. Dirk will be missed by us all. He was a member of the Blue Rapids United Methodist Church and had served eight years on the USD 498 Board of Education. He and Vicki were proud to see some of their land used as an outdoor classroom for the Valley Heights Future Farmers' of America (FFA). He was known for his ready smile, music and having fun. Survivors include his wife, his mother, a son and a daughter, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. Dirk was preceded in death by his father. A memorial service was held on January 10, 2017. Inurnment followed at the Czech Moravian Cemetery near Cleburne, KS.

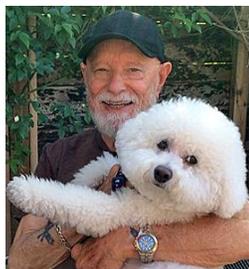


**Suzanne "Suzy" L. Jones, 91**, died peacefully July 11, 2016. She grew up in Waukon, IA. She was an avid reader with a keen mind and an interest in all things, especially science. Suzy loved hiking and the outdoors. She had a strong commitment to being active. With her spirit of adventure and geology training (Cornell College in IA and Syracuse University), Suzy was the perfect mate for her husband of 58 years, **Digger Jones** (*WRD retiree who passed on November 16, 2006*). Through his job with the USGS and USAID, they traveled the world for thirty some years living in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Suzy made friends everywhere she went. Suzy is survived by her daughters, Cindy of Bloomington, IN, Sara (Dean) Reker of Tucson, Lalla (Ali) of Kuwait and grandsons, Jamie Ferguson (Lucy) of LA, and Mickey Ferguson of Chicago as well as beloved cousins and close friends, old and new. We are grateful for all the care provided by Homestead House, TMC Hospice, and Dr. Lorenz.



**Edmund F. 'Ed' LeRoux, age 91**, of Huron, passed away on November 16, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD. He was born March 8, 1925, to Edmund and Hulda (Padelt) LeRoux at Muskegon Heights, MI. He graduated from Muskegon Heights High School in 1943. Ed then attended Central Michigan College, Lawrence College in Wisconsin and graduated from Michigan State University in 1948 with a bachelor of science in geology. He also served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946. On July 23, 1949, he married Dolores Dean "Deannie" Stidham. Ed was employed by the United States Geological Survey from 1949 to 1985 in California, Wisconsin, Washington D.C. and South Dakota. He authored ten scientific and technical papers on geology and hydrology. Ed was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as an elder. He was also a member of the Huron Sertoma Club, American Legion, Huron Elks, and the City of Huron Water Board from 1986 to 1989. His professional affiliations were Geologic Society of Washington D.C., South Dakota Academy of Science, American Geophysical Union, National Water Well Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science and was listed in American Men and Women of Science in 1976. He was preceded in death by his parents; a special daughter, Carol LeRoux; and two sisters and their husbands. Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Deannie of Huron; his two sons and daughter; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. His memorial service was held on November 21, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church, Huron, SD. Burial was in the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD.

**Gerald 'Jerry' Meyer, 93**, passed away at the Los Gatos Meadows on December 11, 2016, a few weeks before his 94th birthday. Upon graduating from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Geology, he went to work for the U.S. Geological Survey. His career began as the District Geologist for West Virginia in 1957, working at John Hopkins University in Maryland on special studies conducted in Carroll and Frederick Counties. In 1962 he chaired a ground-water sub-committee that began inventorying ground-water activities of other Federal agencies. Jerry also participated as a member of the Water Resources Council national assessment, Part 3 Chapter 2 "The Water Resources." Jerry's years in Louisiana involved significant expansion in the scope of investigations by the GWB with a detailed study of the Mississippi River. Jerry followed **Joseph T. Callahan** as Branch Chief for the GWB in Reston, VA from 1973 to the end of the decade in 1979. He retired as Chief of the Ground Water Branch in 1980, having received the U.S. Department of Interior's highest honors: The Meritorious Service Award (1976), and The Distinguished Service Award (1980). Surviving is his wife Libby, a daughter, a grandson, and two great-grandchildren. Services for Jerry will be private.



**Donald 'Don' G. Parks, 85**, passed away on March 3, 2016, at home in Sonoma, CA. He was born December 20, 1930, to Dean and Vesta Parks in Detroit, MI. He spent his early years in Columbus, OH; Donovan, MO; and San Diego and Long Beach, CA. He graduated from high school in Long Beach, in 1948. After a stint in the U.S. Army, he enrolled in Long Beach State University, where he earned Bachelor's degrees in history and sociology, and then went on to earn a Master's degree in sociology from the University of Southern California. He worked briefly as a teacher, before moving to San Francisco, CA to work for the Internal Revenue Service. From there, he moved on to the U.S. Geological Survey, where he worked for 27 years, until his retirement in 1992. Don thrived in his position as Personnel Officer at the Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA and was proud to be

named Federal Employee of the Year for his work with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on an innovative intern program for minority and disadvantaged students. The recurring backdrop to Don's life was his passion for books and music. He had become an ardent jazz fan when he was only 14 years old, haunting record stores and sneaking into jazz clubs around Los Angeles whenever he could. Jazz was the soundtrack to his life. Don is survived by his loving partner, Katie Agers; daughters, Valerie and Debra; sons-in-law, Jim Vroom and Michael Bahner; a grandson; a nephew and niece; six grandnieces and grandnephews; many loving and supportive friends; and his beloved dog, Rollo. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother, and by wives, Helen Williams, Dozy Pappathanassapoulou and Susan Winjum. The family would like to thank the nurses and staff from Sutter Health Care of Santa Rosa, CA who were instrumental in providing care and comfort during his last months. At Don's request, there will be no funeral. A private memorial service was held under the direction of the Neptune Society, San Francisco, CA.

## DISTINGUISHED RANK AWARD RECIPIENT

Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career Senior Executives (SES) and senior career employees – Senior Level (SL) and Scientific or Professional (ST) – with the Presidential Rank Award. Recipients of this prestigious award are acknowledged as strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate the strength, integrity, industry and relentless commitment that signify excellence in public service.

Award winners are chosen through a rigorous selection process that focuses on leadership and results. They are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards comprised of private citizens, and approved by the President. There are two categories of rank awards: Distinguished and Meritorious, with evaluation criteria focused on leadership and results.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that **Deputy Director Bill Werkheiser** is a 2016 Distinguished Rank Recipient. Bill is among only one percent of the career SES or SL/ST to receive this award each year.

In his 30 years of public service, Bill has made extraordinary contributions to communities and the natural systems upon which they depend through innovations that safeguard lives and property, inform decision-makers about water use and availability, and protect and restore critical ecosystems. Bill has been a key leader in improving USGS's response to extreme storm events and other hazards, and his leadership extends beyond the field of hazard response to water availability and use.

Those who know Bill, know that his unique combination of scientific leadership and exceptional business and people skills make him the “go-to” executive to solve difficult organizational issues and deliver results when it really matters. Bill willingly shares his perspectives and know-how, using his stories, warmth, and humor to help others learn from his experiences. Bill is highly regarded throughout the organization for his interest and investment in people. As such, Bill regularly gives his time as a core instructor and coach for Leadership 201, USGS's premier leadership training, which teaches and models leadership principles, diversity, scientific integrity, ethical professional behavior, and the application of action learning to affect change.

Please join me in congratulating Bill on this well-deserved honor!

**Suzette M. Kimball, Ph.D.**

Director

U.S. Geological Survey

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 101

Reston, VA 20192

**Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Geological Survey**

*(The announcement was made through a Survey-wide email to all employees)*

With the change in the Presidential Administration and Suzette's subsequent retirement, Bill Werkheiser has been named Acting Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In this role, he will be responsible for leading the Nation's largest water, Earth, and biological science, and civilian mapping agency. Dave Applegate will serve as the Acting Deputy Director. He will be responsible for assisting the Acting Director in leading the USGS.

Since joining the USGS in 1986, Bill has served in numerous leadership positions. Prior to becoming Deputy Director, he served as the Associate Director for Water, Regional Director for the former USGS Eastern Region, and various acting leadership positions throughout the USGS. He also led the Natural Hazards Initiative Team

and the long-term Hurricane Katrina Response and Recovery Team for the USGS. Recently, Bill was awarded the 2016 Distinguished Presidential Rank Award. Only one percent of career Senior Executive Service (SES) or Senior Level (SL) employees may receive this prestigious award which recognizes the individual's leadership, integrity, ability to achieve results, and commitment to excellence in public service. Bill has a bachelor's degree in geology from Bloomsburg University and a master's degree in hydrogeology and glacial geology from the University of Massachusetts.

Dave joined the USGS in 2004 as a Senior Science Advisor for Earthquakes and Geologic Hazards. In 2011, he assumed leadership of the Natural Hazards Mission Area as Associate Director. Since 2006, Dave has chaired or co-chaired the National Science and Technology Council's interagency Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction. Dave also co-leads the Department of the Interior's Strategic Sciences Group. Prior to joining the USGS, Dave spent 8 years with the American Geological Institute, where he directed science policy and was editor of *Geotimes* magazine. Before that, he worked with the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as the American Geophysical Union's Congressional Science Fellow and as a professional staff member. Dave has a B.S. in geology from Yale University and a Ph.D., in geology, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### **American Geographical Society to Award Honorary Fellowships at Fall Symposium**

BY ADMIN · OCTOBER 17, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Description: The Honorary Fellowship, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society, and are bestowed on individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of geography. Dr. Roberta Balstad, Chair of the UCAR Committee on Advocacy for the Scientific Community (UASC) and Special Research Scientist at Columbia University and Ms. Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), will receive the honor on the 18th of November during the AGS Fall Symposium, Geography 2050: Envisioning a Sustainable Planet, to be held at Columbia University.

[New York City, NY] — [October 17, 2016] – The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that Dr. Roberta Balstad and Ms. Barbara Ryan have been selected to receive the American Geographical Society Honorary Fellowship. The certificates of honor will be presented on November 18, 2016 during the Society's annual Fall Symposium to be held at Columbia University. For more information on the Symposium, please refer to [www.geography2050.org](http://www.geography2050.org).

The Honorary Fellowships are bestowed on individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of geography. At the time of the founding of the Society in 1851, a provision was made for a category of Honorary Fellows, and, until the first medal was awarded in 1896, this was the only honor the institution could bestow. Many of the Honorary Fellows are some of the most recognized names in geographical and exploration history.

Dr. Roberta Balstad has completed two terms as Chair of the UCAR Board of Trustees. She is currently serving as Chair of the UCAR Committee on Advocacy for the Scientific Community (UASC), a Special Research Scientist at Columbia University and Senior Fellow of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN). Prior to her position as Chair, she was the founding Editor-in-Chief of *Weather, Climate and Society*, a journal of the American Meteorological Society from 2008 to 2013. Dr. Balstad has published on diverse topics as the role of social sciences in understanding global

environmental change, information technology and scientific research, science policy, and remote sensing applications and policy.



Ms. Barbara Ryan is the Secretariat Director of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in Geneva Switzerland. Under Ryan's leadership, millions of satellite images and other Earth observation data have been made available to the general public at no charge. This open-sourced sharing of data has allowed scientists, planners and policy makers to make better-informed decisions on problems that transcend political boundaries. Her work addresses critical issues in agriculture, biodiversity, climate change, disaster planning, energy, health and water. In 1974, Ryan joined the United States Geological Survey (USGS). She is an expert in groundwater contamination and was selected as staff assistant to the

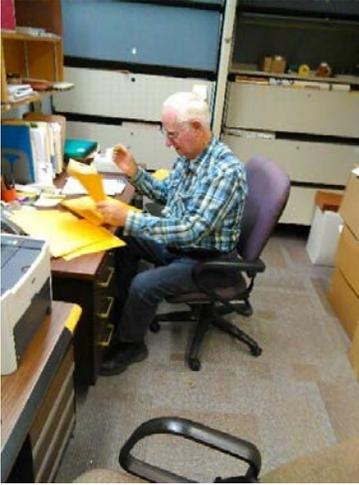
Department of the Interior's top official for water and science. As an associate director for geography at the USGS, she was responsible for the agency's remote sensing, geography and civilian mapping programmes, including the Landsat satellites. Lastly, Ryan was recently awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree from SUNY Cortland.

"For decades, both Dr. Balstad and Ms. Ryan have been stellar leaders in the fields of geography, sustainability, and remote sensing, as well as serving as keen students and stewards of the complexities of the human condition. Dr. Balstad has spent her life as a leader within the academy, bringing geospatial technologies and remote sensing data to the fore in pioneering research endeavors that have had profound impacts in the real world," said Dr. Christopher Tucker, Chair of AGS and Founder of the MapStory Foundation. "Ms. Ryan has been a stalwart public servant who has helped craft the government and inter-governmental institutions that are charged with the production of many of the key geospatial and remote sensing datasets and analytical techniques on which the sustainability community relies. The Society could not be more proud to have them both joining our ranks as Honorary AGS Fellows, and we look forward to their engagement and collaboration in the years to come," added Dr. Tucker.

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society (AGS) is the oldest professional geographical/geospatial organization in the United States. It is recognized world-wide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in geography for over 165 years. AGS is a 21st century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, understanding, and knowledge across business, government, academe, the social sector, and education. The goal of AGS is to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS is the only organization focused on bringing together academics, business people, those who influence public policy (including leaders in local, state and federal government, not-for-profit organizations and the media), and the general public for the express purpose of furthering the understanding of the role of geography in our lives. AGS provides leadership to frame the national discussion of the growing importance of geography and geo-spatial tools. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City, NY.

**NOTE:** Some editing of this article has been done.

## RECOGNITION – USGS RETIREES’ SECRETARY ANDY ANDERSON



Andy Anderson, USGS Retirees' Secretary, hard at work in our new office at 5A430 in the National Center. Andy carries out an enormous range of tasks, some of which are as follows: He collects mail from the PO box in Herndon, and posts all checks before sending them on to Cathy Hill for deposit in the bank. He updates the Excel spreadsheet of members, which is used to make the mailing labels and the "paid through" membership dues file (the date that appears on your mailing label). Andy also covers office email and telephone duties. He works with the newsletter staff providing copies of items received for these articles 'News of Retirees', 'Memorials', and 'New Members and Directory Changes'. When we hold the quarterly mail outs, Andy is our host and arranges for a conference room, gets the mailing labels printed, provides envelopes and supplies, and interacts with the USGS mail room to get the newsletter and directory to you. All this in addition to arranging for our monthly luncheons at the Amphora Diner in Herndon, VA.

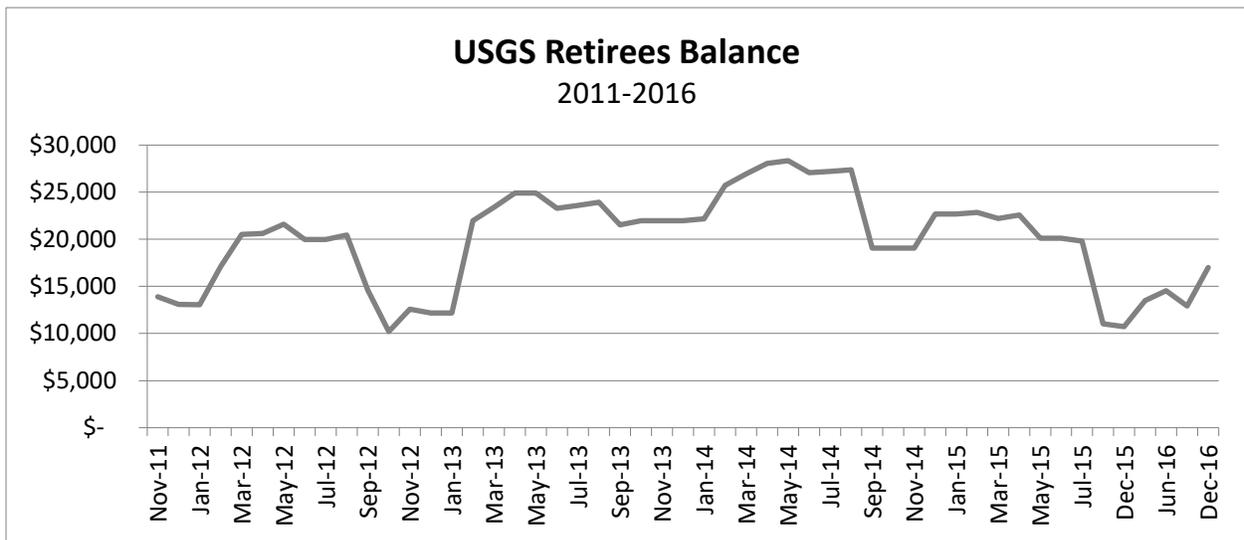
If you are a local member in the Reston-Herndon area, please consider volunteering to help with this workload; we really need help!

## TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2016

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports that this organization had \$17,221 in its coffers at the end of the fourth quarter, December 31, 2016. Delightfully, most of the activity in the account was incoming, with only one outgoing check written to pay for printing the Newsletter.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to several retirees, including:

Jack Fischer, Richard Wagner, Ben Whetstone, James French and Ed Pustay.  
The Bank thanks you!



## NEW MEMBERS

**Clement, Ralph W. (16)** 1903 Siringo Rd, Apt 2A, Santa Fe, NM 87505-5599, 505-946-7675,  
[rclement655tagg@gmail.com](mailto:rclement655tagg@gmail.com)

**Curtin, Steve (16) (Mary Dee)** 1902 Harcourt Ave, Crofton, MD 21114, (h) 410-451-4825, (c) 410-404-8762,  
[planeoldsec66@gmail.com](mailto:planeoldsec66@gmail.com)

**Sweet, Leanna (17) (Keith)** 2399 NY 2, Cropseyville, NY 12052, 518-279-1386, [lesweet924@aol.com](mailto:lesweet924@aol.com)

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Anderson, Steven R. (05)** [hy2droh3r@comcast.net](mailto:hy2droh3r@comcast.net) - email

**Blanchard, Steve (11) (Julia)** 17 Manor Ave, Maryborough Ridge, Douglas, County Cork, Ireland T2V383 -  
addr

**Case, H. Lee (13)** 206-920-0923 - phone

**Driver, Nancy (10)** 303-905-2988 - phone

**Horowitz, Art (11) (Carolyn)** 41 Pointe Terrace SE, Atlanta, GA 30339 - addr

**Jones, Walter D. (11) (Maureen)** 1714 Nathan Dr, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077, [walter.jones1@icloud.com](mailto:walter.jones1@icloud.com) - addr  
email

**Low, Walton (07)** 1027 Calle Contendo, Las Cruces, NM 88011-4211, 571-338-8271 - addr phone

**Martins, Lawrence A. 'Larry' (92) (Rita)** 245 Inverness Center Dr., Apt. 238, Birmingham, AL 35242, 205-  
538-5642 - addr phone

**Merk, Charles (04)** 834 Chestnut St, Apt 1722, Philadelphia, PA 19107 - addr

**Moreland, Joe (99) (Kay)** 714-328-3255 - phone

**Porter, Jo (95) (Charles)** 8905 Richmond Rd, Union, KY 41091, 859-380-8900 - addr phone

**Richards, Byron (09) (Betty)** 4657 Wade St., Bellingham, WA 98226 - addr

**Smith, Ethan Tim (00) (Ellendale)** [etsmithsiri@gmail.com](mailto:etsmithsiri@gmail.com) - email

**Solley, Loretta (03) (Wayne)** -- resigned

**Solley, Wayne (03) (Lory)** -- resigned

**Sweeney, Patricia (01)** -- resigned

**Zogorski, John S. (14) (Nancy)** Remove land-line phone number and replace with (c) 605-390-2640 – phone,  
email remains the same