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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 139
May 2008

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

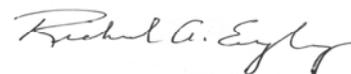
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Early April in Northern Virginia is the most beautiful time of the year. Daffodils are in full bloom. Flowering trees abound. The purple leaf plum tree outside my back door is a riot of pinkish purple blossoms. The Bradford Pear trees on the avenue near the house form a white veil and the cherry trees at the house on the corner also are ablaze with white. On the boulevard, the forsythias greet me with their gold. Walking during the past weekend in Balls Bluff Park, Lynne and I enjoyed the early wild flowers surrounding the trail with their beauty. The air was fragrant without the hint of the heat and humidity sure to come in a month or two. But wait, I recalled that Turbo Tax was waiting and that the news won't be good. Maybe that's why the tax man selected April 15th as the due date each year for income taxes, hoping that the beauty of the month will somewhat compensate for the tax bill that awaits some of us. Ah, spring!

The Reston group of WRD Retirees had a very special meeting on April 7th. Our oldest member and co-founder of WRD Retirees, George Ferguson, was able to be with us as we celebrated his 102nd birthday. Until several months ago, George was a fixture at our meetings but more recently he has been unable to attend regularly. His daughter, Joan, was able to bring him to the meeting and 50 members and spouses were in attendance to help George eat his birthday cake. Joe Cragwall made the trip from Charlottesville, Virginia to help George celebrate. When Joe greeted George, George said "do you still live in Charlottesville?" Herb Freiburger made the trip from Bel Air, Maryland also to celebrate with George. Actually, it turned out to be a dual celebration. Bob Schneider, a regular attendee, celebrated his birthday on April 7th, and Bob and Lore were there to participate in the festivities and share the cake.

Some of you may have received calls, e-mails, or letters in the last two months from one of the National Officers or Regional Directors. At the beginning of the year, approximately 230 members were a year or more in arrears for WRD Retirees dues. Jim Biesecker, Past President, and Bill Boning, Secretary, spearheaded the effort and they and the other officers and directors contacted everyone on the list. At the time of this writing, more than 100 of you have since paid. The dues primarily cover postage and printing costs for the quarterly newsletters and for the annual directory and also support the Hydro Tech scholarship program. If you still owe for the current year or for one or more past years, I would urge you to send your check.

Last, but not least, it is not too early to begin thinking about or even to make your reservation for this year's WRD Retirees Reunion. Dates are October 30-November 1 and the venue is Tampa, Florida. Detailed information about the reunion may be found in the February Newsletter. Those of you with access to a computer may go to www.wrdretirees.org, click on the reunion link and then on "2008 reunion" for all the information. Reunion chair, Craig Hutchinson and his Committee, are planning an outstanding three days of fun and fellowship. I'm working on Craig to let us all go trick or treating on Halloween! Also recall that, like the Portland meeting 4 years ago, there will be a cruise after the Reunion for those wishing to sail the western Caribbean. Lynne and I just returned a month ago from our 6th Caribbean cruise and I highly recommend it. I look forward to seeing you in Tampa.



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Allen Agnew reports, "I will be 90 next August and I still enjoy the Newsletter. Regards to all retirees."

Andy Anderson says, "The February lunch of the HQ retirees had 35 retirees/spouses in attendance and our speaker was Kathleen Cossa, Elderlaw Attorney, who gave a talk about senior financial affairs -- Trusts, Reverse Mortgages, and Capital Gains Breaks. She advised that as a minimum, we should have a Will, Enduring Power of Attorney, and a Living Will. At the March lunch, 30 members/spouses heard **John Shanton** give a slide talk about numerous fishing trips to the Outer Banks of NC that have involved many WRD Retirees. In recent years, John has served as organizer and chief cook at these annual gatherings. At the April lunch, 50 retirees/spouses saw an excellent slide show about blue birds arranged by **Hal Langford**. We also celebrated **George Ferguson's** 102nd birthday."

Bud and Bev Anderson report, "We have been doing a lot of traveling. In January, we flew to California to visit our son, his wife, and our grandchildren and to celebrate Bud's 80th birthday on January 17th. We arrived in California on the afternoon of the 16th and that evening we received a call that Bud's sister died so we flew to Minnesota for the memorial service. We then flew back to California to resume visiting. Returning home, we finally got in 18 holes of golf!"

Rene Barker writes, "I am still part-time with the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, Texas State University. I work with **Raymond Slade**, a fellow WRD Retiree, on local environmental issues. During the past Christmas season, I saw **Dee Molenaar** and **Bob MacNish** – two other WRD Retirees."

Ann Beam reports, "Thanks for producing such an informative Newsletter. I attended a USGS picnic in Raleigh, NC, last summer and recognized only two faces in the group and they were both retirees. I have been back in Raleigh for almost 20 years. I retired from my second career in real estate 12 years ago and stay busy with my 9 grandchildren. All have gone to colleges in North Carolina and two remain in high school. I've enjoyed traveling with the Friendship Force International and friends in my Presbyterian Church. I've worked in different offices in NARFE, DAR, Colonial Dames of American and the Women's Club of Raleigh where I am presently a trustee. My daughter and son have a beach house at Topsoil Beach, NC, so when the weather is good I'm down there fishing. I'll be in Los Angeles for Easter with my sister."

Chuck Berkstresser says, "This last year has been one of great sadness and many joys. In May, I drove to Muncie, IN, to be at #3 granddaughter's graduation from Ball State University with an MA in clinical psychology. She has since started her PhD work at the University of Memphis. From Muncie, I journeyed east to Dayton, OH, to visit the USAF Museum, then northward through Michigan, down through Wisconsin and into Missouri, detouring to North Platte, NE. There the rental car was turned in and the journey continued with visiting friends and relatives in 14 states. The last destination was Phoenix, where #4 granddaughter graduated from high school. Then homeward, in a somewhat circuitous route, including sections of old US Route 66. In June, I decided to get organized so I could move to a senior retirement facility. The fact is, all 4 daughters and 3 of the older granddaughters were pushing me. Scant resistance could be mustered! The move possibly will occur April or May 2008 and I am looking forward to smaller accommodations. Also, there will be much more socializing and many activities in my new retirement home! In October, I drove to Colorado to visit kin and friends and to attend the Annual GSA meeting in Denver. I had an extensive visit with **Ike Winograd** and a short one with **Frank Tit** and **Glenn Miller** in Grand Junction. Christmas involved a trip to Phoenix to visit our youngest daughter then to Los Angeles to visit my eldest and her new husband. **Mark Have** dropped by – good visit with an old friend."

Gil Bortleson writes, "**Marlene** and I are going to a family reunion in Door County, WI, in June. It will give us an opportunity to visit the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison. We spent 5 memorable years in Madison before I accepted a position with the USGS in Tacoma in 1970. I have been keeping active with sports, teaching part time, and yard work. The latter may be the first to go. We are casually looking to downsize from considerable upkeep of a large yard."

Bob Brennan reports, "2007 has been a good year for us. In June, our oldest daughter and her husband came from LA and spent 2 weeks with us. **Elaine** and I took a southern Caribbean cruise in late October and had to dodge a hurricane! After that, the weather was great and we had a wonderful cruise. This year one of our grandsons and his wife came through with a great-granddaughter so now we have 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Age has been kind to us other than the many funerals to attend. We enjoy the Newsletter very much so keep up the good work!"

Bill Broadhurst says, "At 102 I can't write or print worthwhile! My memory also is not as good as it

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once was. I note photos of **John Scott** and **Charles Ming**, old friends, appeared in May 2008 Newsletter, great to see them. Regards!"

Alan Brown writes, "I always enjoy the Newsletter, especially recently with the WW II Veteran's war stories and interesting field trip stories of which I have a few to share, maybe next issue. Keep up the good work."

Richmond Brown says, "I just finished enjoying the February Newsletter and it's good to see the names of so many old friends -- especially **Jerry Lindholm** who I hired years ago in Minnesota and **Gene Hampton** who graciously entertained me at his home and among other things showed me his Vermont Castings wood stove. I bought one to heat our house in Michigan and another to heat the house here in North Carolina. Also, I want to send regards to **Gordon Nelson**, **Bruce Parks**, and **Chet Zenone** -- I haven't heard from them for years! I just recently received my copy of GSA GeoTales, and called **Phil LaMoreaux**, who was largely responsible for initiating the series, to tell him how great it is. I had the pleasure of working with **Warren Wood** who is now teaching at Michigan State. We helped start a study of the Jordan River in Michigan which was to determine the causes of excessive sand transport -- once a gravel bed stream famous for Grayling fishing but now with a sand bed and no Grayling. After a busy year we are in Bryson City, NC, for the winter -- we have been spending part of the year here since '93. Came down here from Michigan to visit friends and ended up buying the house they put us up in. The house needed extensive repairs and we have spent 10 years rebuilding. I made cabinets and furniture in Michigan and brought them down in our pickup. Winter here is not too different from summers in Michigan and the hiking is wonderful with no crowds or bugs! The house my sons built in Michigan is our principle home -- from April to November. When we put 30-year shingles on it I never dreamed that I might be the one that would have to replace them but I guess that is good news! Both my sons have retired and this year was a celebration of all of us having free time. We rode motorcycles to Bike Week in Daytona, went to a rally at the Biltmore House in North Carolina, and took a canoe trip to the Sylvania Wilderness on the Upper Peninsula, then rode to another motorcycle rally in Wisconsin and finally a 10-day canoe trip to the Minnesota-Canadian Boundary Waters Wilderness."

Bob Burchett says, "**Libby** and I are doing fine; we haven't been to the doctors in 2 weeks. We made a trip to Tennessee to celebrate our granddaughter's

17th birthday and to see her play basketball. She made all State and her team went to the State finals, loosing by one point. She scored 20 points per game this season."

Ivan Burmeister writes, "Thanks for a great Newsletter."

Abe Cameron reports, "Regards to all you streamgagers and water witches."

George Cardwell says, "I still have frequent contact with the Louisiana WRD personnel as a member of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission. The 5-parish District has funded projects with WRD since it began in 1976 and we recently approved a \$750,000 groundwater modeling project. To date, all District directors have been USGS retirees: **Alcee Turcan**, '76-'84, myself '84-'94, and **Don Dial** since '94. In '07, I was invited to review a project to provide detailed geologic data needed to strengthen and reconstruct the New Orleans area levees. This work is of great interest to me, as my son and daughter live in the area and suffered damage during Katrina."

Russ Curtis reports, "Hope to see you all in Tampa at the WRD Retirees reunion!"

Mike Frimpter writes, "I appreciate the Newsletters and consequently plan to keep my membership for as long as I last! Currently, I am discovering how it feels to recover from fusion of the L2 to L5 lumbar vertebrae. My surgeon tells me that I am ahead of the curve, but not to lift anything heavier than a 6-pack for 6 months!"

Mike Galvez says, "You all are doing a great job with the Newsletter. Keep up the good work!"

Dave Grason writes, "I'm not retired yet, but I appreciate the work you all do to keep the WRD Retirees program and Newsletter in such fine shape."

Sherry Green says, "Last fall I moved into a townhouse after selling the quad-level home that I lived in for 3 years. This has proven good for me. I am a grandmother of 6. Both my daughters have 3 children, one having a set of twin girls just a year old. I enjoy reading the Newsletter. Life can be such fun."

John Havens reports, "I wish the best to all WRD Retirees!"

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Merle Huber writes, "I really enjoy the Newsletter and look forward to each edition. Keep them coming."

Tom Huntzinger writes, "The Newsletter is always so welcome. It's amazing how much of the news is about people I know or have heard about. I am well. I have now retired from Kansas and had been working for a consultant that does stream restorations and conservation developments with an office near Kansas City. Two months ago, I left the company and took a grant to coordinate land and water management practices for the non-point source program for the watershed above Clinton Reservoir -- the water supply for Lawrence, my home town. This is part-time work and I work from home, a welcome change. I plan to quit working in a couple of years when my wife, **Pat**, retires from her banking job. We went to watch the Kansas Jawhawks play in the Orange Bowl in January and then went to Florida Keys and the Everglades National Park. Key West on New Year's Eve was an adventure! I have a new touring bike so I spend some of my time riding and getting in condition -- great fun. I still have a small farm and hope to find time now to be there more often. My twin daughters are adults now. They are not married yet and they own a house together in the Kansas City area. I am in the final stage of my assignment with the National Research Council. Our Committee was asked to review the USGS water resources discipline and make recommendations about sustaining the program. The Chair is a former state administrator from Iowa so we had some past in common. My role is as both a former USGS scientist and as a state cooperator. I enjoyed meeting former USGS colleagues and talking about WRD again. A few years ago, I was on a National Academies Team that went to North Africa for a seminar on the application of science and water resources decision. My experience with the Ogallala aquifer was my contribution. Tunisia and others in the region are depleting aquifers more rapidly than the Ogallala."

Gerry Idler reports, "I retired in 1997 and as a premarital promise made to my wife, **Jane**, we moved to Florida. Jane ended up working for Disney World, her childhood dream, until stricken with detached retina, which ended her vision in one eye, and then a brain tumor, which after two surgeries during almost 2 years, was the cause of her early death at age of 51. I have remained here in Florida and have committed almost all my time to being a volunteer for the blind community. I do a lot of driving -- transporting non-driving visually impaired people to shopping malls, state conventions, and three national conventions:

Louisville, KY; Atlanta, GA and Dallas, TX, where I ran a continuous round trip from airport to convention center and to and from restaurants and shopping. While home, I scan text books and convert them to electronic format for blind college students. I have also done this for blind psychologists. All of these books have been, after approval by the publisher, submitted to Book-Share, a source of books for the blind worldwide. My youngest child, who is in the retail business, has moved back home, the next oldest is in Germany, a member of Army communications corps, the next older is the orientation and mobility instructor at the rehab center in Daytona Beach, FL, for the blind adults who want to return to workplace. My oldest child is running a remodeling company in Southwest Arkansas."

Ivan James reports, "I am watching nine bills in the CO General Assembly this session that are of interest to sportsmen and wildlife conservationists. We got beaten up pretty badly at subcommittee hearing on the first two bills, but as they say, "It ain't over until the fat lady sings" or in our case, the Governor signs the legislation. Speaking of getting beaten up, I was on the House floor when Rep. Douglas Bruce was censured for kicking a photographer during the opening ceremonies. This is the first censure in the 120-year history of the CO General Assembly, and I was there to see that history made. Our first grandchild is now 3- months old. Recently, we have traveled twice to Texas, to Germany, and I had bow-hunting trips to Kansas and Arizona. Now that **Sara** is in tax season, we will probably not travel much until late spring!"

Marlene Johnson writes, "Thanks for a very wonderful and enjoyable Newsletter!"

Suzy Jones reports, "I truly appreciate receiving the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

Terry Katzer says, "I really enjoy the Newsletter, keep up the good work!"

Scott Keys reports, "I remarried in 2006 after losing my first wife, **Shirley**, to brain cancer after 50 years of marriage. I now live in Frisco, CO, with my new wife, **Polly**. We moved to Summit County because of the nearby skiing and mountain climbing and a very active group of seniors. Unfortunately, I fractured 2 vertebrae during a storm returning from Antarctica on a Russian icebreaker. The painkilling drugs cause an oxygen deficiency so hiking, biking, and cross country skiing must be done with an oxygen cylinder on my back. Polly and I just returned from our second trip to Churchill, Manitoba to photograph the polar bears. I have been working

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on a photographic display to explain the effect of global warming on the polar bears.”

John Klein says, “Each great WRD retiree’s newsletter reminds me to sit down and let folks know where we are and what we are up to. But, time slips away and before I know it a new newsletter arrives on our computer. **Joyce** and I are presently living in our RV in a Fish and Wildlife campground for volunteers. This is our second winter working at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, on the Rio Grande just south of McAllen, TX. This part of the border is like no place else in the United States nor Mexico. It’s a unique blending of two cultures. Try walking down the meat section of the local supermarket and finding a cut of meat that resembles anything one might find in Tucson. And, if you haven’t experienced passing on a 2-lane road you are in for a real treat. Fish and Wildlife has developed a strong volunteer program. There are about 40 volunteers here at Santa Ana that do everything from running the visitor’s center, conducting bird walks, canoe trips, mechanical repairs, revegetation, and maintaining water levels in a series of resaca’s (oxbow lakes) for ducks and shore birds. In return for a minimum of 3 days per week of work, we get a very nice place to park our RV, electricity, propane, water, laundry rooms, and garbage collection. Because I’m maintaining water levels, I’m out on the refuge most days with all the mosquitoes. Santa Ana is a birder’s paradise with 400 species of birds. The refuge is 2088 acres of subtropical thorn forest (I have found most of the thorns) and both the Mississippi and Central flyways converge here. The southern boundary is the Rio Grande -- the United States/Mexico border. Since the refuge is large with dense areas of vegetation, it is also a very popular crossing for illegals. They wade across the Rio Grande with dry clothes in plastic bags held over their head. Once in the refuge they change into dry clothes and leave all their wet clothes and plastic bags behind -- picking up all the debris becomes the responsibility of the refuge volunteers. A few of the illegals probably make it through the forests and quickly blend in with the farm workers that are everywhere, but many are apprehended almost immediately since the refuge is also filled with some sophisticated sensors that quickly alert the Border Patrol. Since retirement December 2005, Joyce and I have been on the move. A 2-week cruise through the Panama Canal was followed by a 2- week trip into the heart of Mexico. Each year we spend 3 weeks in June in Kauai, and in October we go back for 3 weeks on the Big Island. Combine that with living on the road in our RV, and we are seldom in Tucson. We still have our house there, but last year we were in it

only 2 months. We recently purchased a lot in an RV resort east of Temecula, CA. We will be spending much time at this location since it’s close to our grandkids. We are uncertain which refuge we will work at next winter. Our time here has given us tremendous insight into this culture. So there is value to bringing what we have learned back here to assist, but there is also our desire to move on to a different location for new experiences. While on the road, we are almost always available via our computer, jklein5@comcast.net. We would love to hear from our old friends. Who knows when we may be backing into your driveway. As **Phil Emery** said, “You’re welcome to use my driveway, but when you wake up and find the extension cord gone, you’ll know it’s time to move on.”

Phil LaMoreaux reports, “Read as usual cover to cover WRD Retirees Newsletter #138. It is the best way for me to keep track of old USGS associates. I recognized no less than 15 retirees and the memorial to **Lamar Carroon**. Lamar and I worked together in Alabama for many years. I am looking forward to attending the 14th WRD Retirees Reunion in 2008; however, I will not be able to participate in some of the activities.”

Hal Langford says, “**Bill Schaefer** reported in NL 138, p. 7, on the Thanatopsis Club and its membership. He overlooked three stalwarts, however, **Roy Oltman**, **Ben Benson**, and **Orv Mussey**. I recall that Roy Oltman always dealt “Ma Ferguson” a wild-wild poker game involving criss-cross common cards, that Ben Benson always lit a big fat 8-inch cigar sometime during the evening, and that Orv Mussey had the unique ability to deal a poker hand while holding a lit cigarette in his lips and allowing the drifting smoke to waft upward between his eye glasses and his squinting eyes – a remarkable feat! These men, along with Bill and **Joe Cragwall**, taught me many lessons at poker for which I am eternally grateful.”

Jack Little writes, “**Jan** and I moved to Watertown, SD, last fall to cut back on yard work. Things are going well with us, a few more aches and pains, but life is good. Our main activities revolve around our local grandchildren; we attended about 200 of their activities last year. I spend some time as an advisor to the Lake Kampeska Water Project District, on family genealogy, and fishing.”

Forest Lyford reports, “Immediately after retiring in March 2004, my sister put me to work gutting and renovating her home in Sturbridge, MA. I enjoyed working with the architect on that project, my daughter **Jennifer**. In April 2006, I took a part-time job as a rehired annuitant with the Corps of

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Engineers in Concord, MA. There I assist on work at Superfund sites around New England. Many of the sites and players are familiar to me because of former USGS projects with USEPA. It has been gratifying to apply hydrologic principles from my USGS experience to real-world problems, particularly those involving contaminant transport in glacial deposits and fractured crystalline rock. For the last year, much of my time at the Corps was on reviews of remedies at Superfund sites, a somewhat sobering activity as we assessed cleanup progress 10 - 15 years later. My work on the reviews prompted a commendation from the Colonel. Lately I have enjoyed applying numerical models to sites in Connecticut and Vermont. Lessons learned from the Glacial Valleys RASA and NAWQA TANC programs have been particularly useful in these modeling efforts. My wife, **Diane**, works for a logistics wing of the U.S. Army at their Natick, MA, laboratory."

Mary Lou Malo says, "I do enjoy reading familiar names of those who were friends of **Bernie**. Thanks!"

Dorothy Maltby reports, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter. Thanks again for preparing a fine report."

Luther Mills writes, "I really enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Keep up the good work!"

Jim Mullen reports, "I enjoy the Newsletter. Thanks to **Mike Gaydos** for sending me the electronic version. It's great!"

Daisie Oden says, "Thanks to everyone who works on the WRD Retirees Newsletter. The Newsletter really is a great way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the lives of so many. I've been busy as an Auxiliary member with the Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA, and recently jumped on board to help establish an Auxiliary for the new Stafford Hospital Center that hopefully will open its doors in the spring of 2009. Family "to dos" and church activities seem to keep me busy as well. I'm looking forward to adding more to my schedule when the weather warms up as I am eager to get outside to dig and plant. This area has been under a water restriction since last summer, and it has not been lifted; no plans to lift the restriction unless we have about 3 weeks of rain. Wishful thinking! Whatever I plant will require little or no water. Such tough decisions to make! Until next time, enjoy the season wherever you are and count your blessings. Welcome to the new officers of WRD Retirees and to all who work on the Newsletter."

Archibald Patterson retired from WRD in 1964. His son, James, wrote to advise us that "Archibald is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's Disease." James advised us that until last year Archibald really enjoyed the Newsletter, but now he no longer recognizes any facet of the publication. We send warm wishes to Archibald.

Dick Paulson writes, "Despite moving from Reston to St. Michaels, MD, two years ago, **Marion** and I continue to pursue working careers. She works as a Montessori consultant and goes to Arlington a couple of times a month to teach science at her former school. I work with the Mekong River Commission (MRC), which has a Secretariat in Vientiane, Laos and a Regional Flood Management Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, places I've come to know and visited as recently as last week. I began working with MRC in 2001 to help their Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy after floods took more than 800 lives and caused more than \$400M in damages the year before. Most of my assistance has been provided under contract to NOAA, which, with the USGS, is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Asia Flood Network (AFN) Program that fosters technical assistance to the MRC. My principal USGS contact is **Saud Amer**, who works with **Verne Schneider**. My visits to the National Center are too few and there are not many people I recognize after being gone 14 years. The AFN program has kept me traveling to the MRC 3-4 times each year since 2001, with intermittent consulting trips for the World Bank to Georgia, Armenia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Romania, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Mexico. Now I am helping MRC implement a flash-flood guidance system for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Of all the places I've worked, the MRC countries are my favorite -- I've made many friends, participated in interesting projects, enjoyed excellent food, learned about other cultures, and have come to feel at home. Hanoi and Bangkok are my favorites. The downside to traveling is being away from home for family events, as well as Retiree functions. Marion and I rent a house for 2 weeks on the Outer Banks every summer and host our children and grandchildren, clearly the high point of the family year. Marion and I did travel to Rome in January last year for a Montessori conference. We then visited our son, Ross, who was working in Germany. We had a chance to visit an ancestral village in France. In September, we visited Canada and New England."

Doug and **Linda Posson** write, "Since retiring, Linda and I have been unable to attend the annual WRD gatherings, so I especially look forward to reading about the events and seeing the photos in

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the WRD Retirees Newsletter. I also appreciate receiving the updated WRD Retiree's Directory each year. Kudos to **Jim Biesecker, Dotty Woods**, and the regional editors who compile all the latest scoop. Though our home is in Fort Collins, we have been living in France several months each year, most recently in Céret. This is a town in French Catalonia where the Pyrenees Mountains plunge into the Mediterranean Sea. France and Spanish cultures overlap here, with ancient Roman, Greek, and Gothic history all around. Paintings done by Picasso, Matisse, Chagal, and others who lived in Céret hang in the town's modern art museum. I see that the WRD Retirees have a visit to the Salvador Dali museum on the agenda this October. Another Dali museum is just 20 minutes from Céret. Frequent cycling and hiking in the Pyrenees keeps us in shape for the difficult tasks of learning about Catalan cuisine and the inexpensive but excellent wines of the region. Each November, we go to Provence to pick olives with friends. Linda has been busy writing short stories and a novel about the French Resistance during WWII. I've been compiling a database on the *terroir* of French wine regions. *Terroir* is the term for the geologic, soil, geographic, and climate characteristics of the places where wine grapes are grown. It's a large part of why wines can be so different one from the other. After springtime in Céret and a summer of hiking in Colorado, we will stay in Camden, ME, for some months to take in the autumn colors, rivers, and mid-coast of Maine. Isn't it great to be a WRD retiree?"

Paul Rohne says, "**Harriet** and I had a wonderful 2007. During the Holiday season we saw about 2/3 of our family. We are hunting an excuse to go to Arizona to visit with the rest. I'm just back from Arkansas where I spent 30 days with FEMA. Come June 30th, I will "retire" for the second time -- I've worked for FEMA 11 ½ years after retiring from USGS."

Stan Sauer writes, "**Virginia** and I send greetings from Texas. I appreciate very much all the work that the officers and volunteers do to prepare and mail the Newsletter and other items to keep us all informed."

Vern Sauer says, "Hello to all WRD Retirees. I thoroughly enjoy reading the Newsletter and keeping up with old friends. **Marylou** and I still live on the west bank of beautiful Hartwell Lake and really enjoy it. We are active in church and the local YMCA and enjoy small-town living. We wish the drought would end so the lake would fill again. I'm known as the waterologist in these parts and locals keep asking if I can do anything to get more

rain! Seems like that only happened back when I had to measure floods. On a serious note, I've just about stopped doing hydrology work except that I'm waiting for the final draft of the streamgauging manual to come back from WMO. This was a complete revision of WMO 519 and I sincerely thank the many WRD employees that helped me with photos, text, and modern technology. Also, I am still chairing the Sabine River Compact Commission. Marylou and I still travel some, like last September we went to northern Arizona and southern Utah. That trip included a second visit to the Wave, part for photography reasons, but mainly to enjoy its beauty again. If you've never been, look it up on the Internet. It's a very beautiful and delicate natural formation of petrified sandstone and requires a 7-mile hike across fairly rugged terrain to get there. It's administered by BLM who only allow 20 people a day to visit. It's well worth getting a permit and making the trip. Hope to see you soon!"

LaRue Slack reports, "**Larry** is scheduled to come home from the hospital about March 1. He recently had a stem cell transplant to cure leukemia and all looks good! He has his laptop with him in the hospital so you can drop him an email (LJSlack98@yahoo.com) if you would like."

Don and **Mabel Spencer** say, "We are still fighting a few health problems, but what's new about that? As my Mom used to say, "Old age is He__!" I think she was correct! But that bad humor aside, we are enjoying our 2 great-grand sons, one almost 4 and the other almost 1. The Rolla WRD retirees still meet once a month. There are, sadly enough, fewer now than some 20 odd years ago. Now, the regulars are; **Mel Janson, Me, John Skelton, Leland Hauth, Jim Barks, Larry Becker, Loyd Waite**, and **Leon Reed**. We do have quite a few more in the area, and State for that matter, who come to our annual picnic at Leon Reed's lake. Other than our daily routines, we are still on our 170 acres of rocks and Eastern Cedars. Our daughter and her husband are looking to build on 16 acres of it -- to be closer to us in our "Golden Years." The only problem, I think, is that the gold has already been mined, smelted, and sold. I have been playing in a band for the last 3 years. We're called "The Over The Hill-Billies" and we (all 8 to 10 of us) ARE over the hill! We play about 10 to 13 gigs a month at nursing homes, residential care facilities, and a Veterans Home. This is very satisfying and soul soothing, and we are thankful that we are able to do it. We did get a small stipend for one gig, the 4th of July at a celebration in Montauk Springs State Park. Maybe our years working in Nashville are paying off!"

NEWS OF RETIREES

Henry Trapp writes, "Here is an update on my retirement situation. In 1980, I was transferred from Tallahassee to Trenton to work on a RASA, which followed a ground-water atlas chapter. My wife, **Erika**, brought our son Joe along, but our daughter Barbara was a student at FSU and stayed behind. An internship at Amelia Island Plantation developed into a career in resort management for her at the Plantation. Later she married Gary Ross and they produced our sole grandchild, April. Joe graduated from Penn State in Civil Engineering and has been working for the City and Port of Oakland. Erika and I are still living where we alighted in 1980 in Bucks County, PA. It is a pleasant place to live, and we are active in church, adult education, and health classes, yard and garden, recording our personal and family histories, and organizing photos. I attend the get-togethers of the New Jersey WRD retirees. We made several trips to Europe. However, we are almost 900 miles from our nearest family. We drive wherever we want to go, but we know that we won't always be able to drive. Therefore, we are gradually preparing our house for sale with the intention of moving back to Florida, closer to Barbara's family. We have been looking at Gainesville as a place to relocate, not too large or congested, not subject to hurricane evacuations, with cultural and public transportation."

CT Welborn reports, "I continue to recover from my knee replacement. During one of my hospital stays I began to hallucinate -- thought people were talking about me in the next room and that I had been kidnapped. Even after **Dixie** calmed me down, it

was still scary! We traveled to Rockport on Feb.14th to celebrate Valentine's Day and our wedding anniversary. We then went on the whooping crane boat and saw many birds as well as 17 whooping cranes. The guide said that there were 139 whooping cranes and they will be leaving the end of March. There were 7 chicks that made it down from their northern reserve in Canada. As soon as the whooping cranes finish their long trip to Canada, they lay their two eggs and in about a month the chicks are hatched and they have about 90 days before they will have to be able fly back to the Rockport reserve. The second chick seldom survives. The mother feeds the first chick and if there is any food left, she feeds the second chick. There were two sets of twins this year that made it to the reserve in Rockport. If fed, the chicks will gain an inch per day. On the day after the whooping crane boat trip, we went to the Aransas Wild Life Reserve and saw armadillos, deer, and 7 javelina. We have been to the Wild Life Park about nine times and have seen javelina only on three occasions. I visited **Bill Broadhurst** before the Texas retirees meeting. We spent about 40 minutes talking about our co-workers in the "old Survey." Today, whatever they call it, the organization and people aren't anything like the Survey we worked in. Bill is about the same as always. He is having some trouble with his feet swelling so he has an electric wheel chair and cruises around the retirement home. Bill will celebrate his 103rd birthday on June 1st."

Do you owe dues to WRD Retirees for 2008?

According to our records, there are about 500 members who have not yet paid their dues for 2008. Please check your records and if you have not yet paid your 2008 dues, send a check as follows:

Please make your check out to: WRD Retirees

Mail your payment to: WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herndon VA 20172-0280

Thanks for your assistance in keeping WRD Retirees operating well. If you have questions about your dues status, please contact our Secretary, Bill Boning. Bill's email is cwboning@verizon.net. His telephone number is 703-435-0031. If you need to write to Bill, please send him a note at the WRD Retirees office address shown above.

WRD NEWS

Note to WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. If you know any of these folks who recently joined our ranks, reach out and welcome them aboard. Please invite them to your Local Meetings!

Recent Retirements

Northeastern Region

Cassandra D. Blackwell, Secretary, 3708 Fairfield Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 670-3419, 04/03/08
Jane A. Cannarsa, Admin. Officer, 5 Chocorua Lane, Merrimack, NH 03054-7209, (603) 429-2094, 02/02/08
Robert O’Gorman, Fish Biologist, 17 Thistle Drive, Oswego, NY 13126, (315) 343-2351, 04/03/08

Southeastern Region

Gail Kalen, Information Tech Specialist, 10110 SW 117th Court, Miami, FL 33186, (305) 274-2825, 01/08
Craig E. Oberst, Hydrologic Technician, 194 Laurel Way, Woodstock, GA 30188, (770) 516-5196, 03/29/08

Central Region

Allan D. Arntson, Hydrologist, 4365 Ithaca Lane, Plymouth, MN 55446, (763) 553-7950, 02/01/08
Roger J. Borrego, Supply Spec., 550 South Nelson Street, Lakewood, CO 80226, 04/03/08
Michael R. Cannon, Hydrologist, 1345 Deer Meadow, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 449-4676, 01/03/08
James R. Finley, Hydrologic Tech., P.O. Box 2394, Eureka, MT 59917-2394, (406) 889-3673, 01/03/08
Stephen R. Glodt, Information Spec., 9327 Ingalls Street, Westminster, CO 80030, (303) 426-6453, 04/03/08
Claudia J. Heroth, Program Analyst, 11306 Jasmine Street, Thornton, CO 80233, 03/01/08
Wallace W. Larson, Hydro.Tech., 20515 Aspen Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, (218) 326-2721, 02/02/08
Steven W. Nichols, Hydro. Tech., P.O. Box 303, East Helena, MT 59635-0303, (406) 449-6399, 01/03/08
Andrew R. Skerda, Hydrologic Tech., 425 Graham, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 449-7528, 01/03/08
Charles J. Smith, Hydrologist, 4476 Oakhurst Avenue, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127, (651) 429-3659, 02/02/08
Gregory W. Stratton, Hydro. Tech., 14884 110th Street South, Hastings, MN 55033, (651) 437-7848, 01/31/08
John S. Stuckless, Geologist, 7854 Armadillo Trail, Evergreen, CO 80439, 04/03/08
Lan H. Tornes, Hydrologist, 24244 Hummingbird Street, Saint Francis, MN 55070, (763) 213-0621, 02/03/08
Paul Vonguerard, Hydrologist, 2290 Shane Court, Grand Junction, CO 81503, (970) 244-8486, 04/01/08
Thomas A. Winterstein, Hydrologist, 1310 Minnehaha Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55104, (651) 646-3663, 02/01/08

Western Region

Michael J. Dai, Hydrologic Technician, 2410 Fremont Boulevard, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 774-6143, 04/01/08
Randall L. Fields, Info. Tech. Spec., 5297 West Keybridge Drive, Boise, ID 83703, (208) 384-1241, 04/01/08
Gerald L. Rockwell, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 1431, Tahoe City, CA 96145, (530) 583-5376, 02/03/08
Gregory P. Ruppert, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 2091, Pasco, WA 99302, (509) 545-8435, 04/03/01
Laurence E. Schemel, Hydrologist, 879 Warren Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303, (650) 856-6521, 04/03/08
William C. Steinkampf, Hydrologist, 4205 E. Whittier Street, Tucson, AZ, 85711, 02/01/08
Daniel S. Yeatts, Hydrologist, 117 Diamond Point Drive, Maumelle, AZ 72113, 03/15/08

Headquarters

Krishnaveni V. Sarma, Info. Spec., 3011 Ashburton Manor, Herndon, VA 22071, (703) 264-5834, 03/01/08
Margery M. Shapira, Secretary, 1109 Iron Ridge Court, Herndon, VA 20170, (703) 471-4323, 03/31/08
Thomas M. Yanosky, Botanist, 1437 Millikens Bend, Herndon, VA 20170, 03/31/08

WRD NEWS

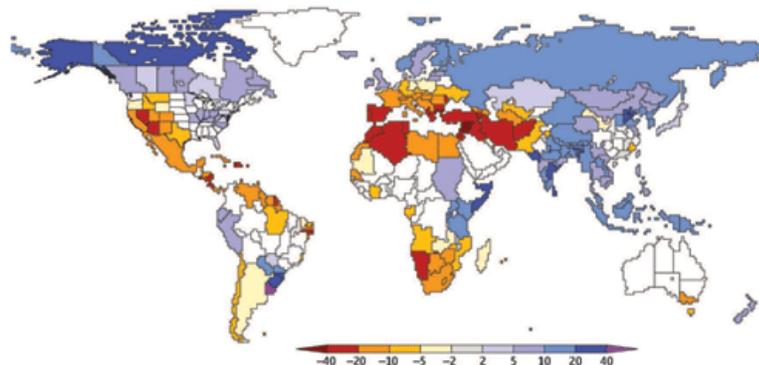
“WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

News of the WRD Research Matt Larsen, Chief Scientist for Hydrology

Here is a summary of some current WRD research. For more information email Matt at mclarsen@usgs.gov or visit the website: <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/highlights.html>

Climate Change: Making a central assumption of water management obsolete

Water-resource risk assessment and planning are currently based on the notion that factors such as precipitation and streamflow fluctuate within an unchanging envelope of variability. Anthropogenic changes to Earth's climate are altering the means and extremes of these factors so that this paradigm of stationarity no longer applies, causing a basic principle that guides how infrastructure decisions are made to be in doubt.



[Changes in runoff volume projected by the middle of the 21st century relative to 1900-1970 historical conditions. Color, denoting percentage change, represents the median value from 12 climate models.]

Scientists and engineers have long worked under the assumption that nature will behave in the future in the same way it behaved in the past. For example, nature will always bring us surprises in the form of floods and droughts. This principle (called

"stationarity") says that the risks of such events at any given location do not change as the years roll by.

However, in a February 2008 article in *Science*, USGS and other scientists note that the principle of stationarity is "dead" because substantial anthropogenic change of Earth's climate is altering the means and extremes of precipitation, evapotranspiration, and rates of discharge of rivers. Thus, because of changes in land use and climate, we must modify our approach to solving water resources problems. The world invests over \$500 billion per year in water infrastructure. Optimal use of available climate information will require extensive training of (both current and future) hydrologists, engineers, and managers in nonstationarity and uncertainty. The new approach must recognize that the future is likely to be rather different from the past, but must also recognize that we are likely to remain highly uncertain of what the future will bring in any given river basin.

Milly, P.C.D., Betancourt, J., Falkenmark, M., Hirsch, R.M., Kundzewicz, Z.W., Lettenmaier, D.P., and Stouffer, R.J., 2008, Stationarity is dead: Whither water management?: *Science*, v. 319, no. 5863, p. 573-574.

For additional information, see the project, Continental Water, Climate and Earth-System Dynamics, or contact Chris Milly, cmilly@usgs.gov

WRD Retirees Cruise of the Western Caribbean after the Tampa Reunion

WRD Retirees Reunions are a wonderful place to visit with long-time friends. WRD Retirees thought that it would be a good idea to extend the time spent at a reunion by scheduling a cruise immediately after. We first did this following the Portland Reunion in 2002. Saundra Duncan, WRD Retiree cruise specialist, planned a cruise to Alaska following the Portland reunion and about 125 WRD Retirees attended and had a great time! Because of the success of the Alaska cruise, we asked Saundra to plan a cruise after the Tampa Reunion, October 30 – November 1, 2008. She has scheduled a cruise of the Western Caribbean from Sunday, November 2 to Sunday, November 9. The cruise will visit four destinations in the Western Caribbean: Grand Cayman, Isla Roatan, Belize, and Cozumel. All cruisers will receive a cabin credit which will depend on the size of our group. We will also have a private one-hour cocktail party with food.

Plan to cruise with us – you will have a terrific time! To make your reservation, contact Saundra as soon as possible. Call her at 303-279-5061 with your credit card number (the method of choice) or send a \$250 per person deposit check to Saundra at:

34 South Flora Way
Golden, CO 80401

Additional information, including a map of the cruise sites, is also available on the WRD Retirees web page at WRDRetirees.org. Simply click on the words 2008 Reunion Information near the top of the page and then click on Cruise information.

+++++

Come see your long time friends at the Tampa reunion. It's great fun and you won't miss any old friends as depicted by the sad story portrayed in the following poem.

"Around the Corner"

By Charles Hanson Towne

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end;
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on,
And before I know it a year has gone,
And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine. We were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men:
Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired with trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call on Jim,"
"Just to show that I'm thinking of him,"
But tomorrow comes - and tomorrow goes.
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner! - yet miles away.
"Here's the telegram, sir..... Jim died today."
And that's what we get, and deserve in the end,
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Don't miss seeing your long-time friends. Join them in Tampa at the 2008 Retirees reunion!

FOURTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2008
Tampa, Florida
October 30-November 1, 2008

HOTEL

The 2008 Reunion will take place at the Belleview Biltmore Resort & Spa, Clearwater, Florida. Our reunion will take place near the end of the hurricane season when activity is usually diminished and when the temperature is ideally in the low 70's. Eighty-five rooms have been reserved for the reunion -- we can get more rooms if reservations are made before September 15, 2008. Shuttle service is available from the Tampa and St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport, call 800-282-6817. There is no charge for parking at the hotel. Special room rates for single or double occupancy (before taxes) are: Run of House \$109 and Sun Parlor Suite \$139. For more info go to WRDRetirees.org and click on 2008 Reunion Information. You can also make room reservations by calling 800-237-8947 (mention WRD Reunion when making your reservation) or by clicking on the reservations line of the reunion web page shown at WRDRetirees.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday, October 30

Tropical Welcome, 6:00–9:00 pm -- poolside buffet with steel drum music.

Friday, October 31

Business Meeting, 9:00 am-12:00 noon -- All retirees and spouses are invited to participate.

Lunch Buffet, 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Golf, Visit USGS Office or John's Pass Village, 1:00-6:00 pm – See the web page for details.

Belleview Biltmore Resort Historical Tour

Saturday, November 1

Tours, 8:30 am–4:00 pm -- Please refer to specific tour for times.

Gala Banquet, 6:30-10:00 pm. A plated dinner will be served at the closing presentations and awards ceremony. See Registration form for menu.

TOURS

The reunion committee has arranged several tours. Some retirees may wish to forego the organized tours and take advantage of the hotel amenities. Complimentary transportation is available to and from the beach club every hour. **Detailed information** about the tours is available in the **February 2008 WRD Retirees Newsletter** or from the **WRD Retirees reunion website** <http://mysite.verizon.net/cbhutchinson/wrdretirees2008reunion/> or the WRD Retirees web page at WRDRetirees.org.

Salvador Dali Museum and Baywalk, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Hydrologic Field Trip-USF GeoPark and Sinkholes, 8:30 am–4:00 pm

Florida Aquarium, 8:15 am-4:00 pm

Sunken Gardens, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

November 2 – November 9

Western Caribbean Cruise

A 7-day western Caribbean cruise will depart from the port of Tampa. A detailed description of the Cruise is presented on page 11 of this Newsletter. Join us for a fun time!

Please note the following:

Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations must be made by September 15, 2008.

Please register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Information and links to related sites are available through the WRD Retirees 2008 reunion website <http://mysite.verizon.net/cbhutchinson/wrdretirees2008reunion/>. This website is also accessible through the "reunions" page at the WRD Retirees website, WRDRetirees.org.

**REGISTRATION FORM
WRD RETIREES 2008 REUNION, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2008**

NAME(S) _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION FEE—DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Number attending _____ @ \$35 per person \$ _____
 (\$45 per person after September 15; refunds available prior to this date)

FOOD—Group meals are listed. Other meals are on-your-own.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, CABANA POOLSIDE BUFFET

Soup, salad, baked grouper, jerk chicken, Cuban pork loin, rice,
 plantains, dessert
 Number attending _____ @ \$43 per person \$ _____

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, HEALTHIER SIDE LUNCHEON BUFFET

Soup, salad, roasted sea bass, fruit, cookies
 Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, GALA BANQUET

____grilled ribeye steak, ____pan seared grouper, ____chicken saltimbocca,
 or ____vegetarian selection, with salad and 2 desserts. Check selection(s)
 Number attending _____ @ \$47 per person \$ _____

TOURS—One 43-56-passenger bus is reserved for each tour.

Select first and second choice, pay for the more expensive, excess will be refunded.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Belleview Biltmore Resort Historical Tour

Number attending _____ (free)

Trip to USGS Science Center, St. Petersburg

Number attending _____ @ \$15 per person \$ _____

Belleview Biltmore golf outing

Number attending _____ @ \$60 per person \$ _____

John's Pass Village and Boardwalk

Number attending _____ @ \$15 per person \$ _____

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Salvador Dali Museum and Baywalk, lunch on your own

Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

Hydrologic Field Trip, picnic lunch included

Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

Florida Aquarium, lunch on your own

Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

Behind scenes tour _____ @ \$9 per person \$ _____

Sunken Gardens, catered lunch included

Number attending _____ @ \$34 per person \$ _____

TOTAL (registration, food, and tours) \$ _____

Reunion registration and hotel reservations must be made by September 15, 2008.

REMINDER: Don't forget to reserve a room at the Belleview Biltmore Resort by calling 800-237-8947 and mention "WRD Reunion" to the reservationist. Contact Sandra Duncan at wrdcruise@comcast.net for Caribbean cruise bookings.

Mail this form, with your check, payable to "WRD Retirees 2008 Reunion Fund" to WRD Retirees c/o Craig Hutchinson, 15912 Willowdale Road, Tampa, FL 33625.

Questions? Contact Craig Hutchinson at crabrahut@aol.com, phone 813-960-3769, or Lynn Barr at lynnbarr@tampabay.rr.com, phone 813-973-3937.

LOCAL METINGS AND GATHERINGS

Missouri District WRD Retirees at their March Luncheon at Zeno's



Front row, L to R: Don Spencer, Mabel Spencer, Leon Reed, Martha Skelton, and John Skelton
Back row, L to R: Mel Jansen (seated), Horace Jeffery, Larry Becker, Virgene Becker, Patti Barks, and Jim Barks

Ohio Retirees April luncheon in Columbus, Ohio



L to R: Jesse Klingler, Chuck Owens, Merle and Max Katzenbach, Sandy Hindall, Jane Hintershied, Dean MacFadden, Sandy Beck, Steve Hindall, Joyce and Paul McClure, Janet Welday and Jerry Stewart

April Lunch Meeting of the HQ WRD Retirees



George Ferguson and several longtime colleagues at his 102nd birthday celebration.
L to R: Bill Schaefer, Milt Hackett, Hal Langford and Joe Cragwall.



George Ferguson and his daughter Joan celebrating his 102nd birthday at the April lunch meeting of the HQ WRD Retirees.

LOCAL METINGS AND GATHERINGS

Denver WRD Retirees Conquer the Great Wall of China, March 2008



Back Row: L to R: Russ Livingston, Anita Livingston, Jerry Duncan, Jim Blakey
Front Row: L to R: Jack Weeks, Judy Weeks, Sandra Duncan, Paula Blakey

Tampa Reunion Organizing Committee

These are the folks who are planning a great time for all of the WRD Retirees at the Tampa Reunion, October 30 - November 1, 2008. Come have a great time!



L to R: Craig Hutchinson, Carl Goodwin, Lynn Barr, Dan Duerr, Peggy Barr

Denver Spring Lunch 2008 Group Photo



“North to Alaska” With the Water Resources Branch*

by Chet Zenone

Along with the early 1900's boom in placer gold mining activity in the Nome region on Alaska's Seward Peninsula, streams were being diverted to bring water to the mining sites. The lack of information on the flow of the streams being diverted and the tendency of promoters to overestimate the available water supply prompted Alfred H. Brooks, then chief geologist of the Alaskan Division of the USGS (and for whom the Brooks Range was named), to propose a stream-gaging program for the area. Alaska was not a regular "district" of the Water Resources Branch (aka Hydrographic Branch**) at the time, so that water-resources related work there was done by members of the Branch for the Alaska Division, at the latter's expense. Thus, in 1906 Dr. Brooks arranged to have the Water Resources Branch detail an engineer to begin the Alaskan work, and his letter to USGS Director Charles D. Walcott stated, in part, "This work is to be done by men detailed from the Division of Hydrography, whose field expenses are to be met from the Alaskan appropriation." Engineer J.C. Hoyt was selected to begin the work, and the scope of his work was described, in part, as follows: "The field of your operations will be the Seward Peninsula and their purpose will be the investigation of water resources available for placer mining."

Hoyt was unable to devote the entire season, short as it was, to the work in Alaska, and he took with him F.F. Henshaw from the computing section (with his slide rule? C.Z.). They reached Nome on June 11, 1906, after a 2,700-mile sea trip from Seattle. Because of the small original allotment of \$2,200, investigations were limited to a belt of country on the Seward Peninsula stretching inland about 40 miles, from Nome to the Kigluaik Mountains, a region rich in placer deposits. Gaging stations were established and operated on several principal streams to document the water supply available for placer mining of ground previously prospected. Because of the limited funding, the cooperation of ditch companies and of isolated, commonly lone miners in reading gage heights and providing other assistance was invaluable to the efforts of the Survey to obtain streamflow records. One enterprising miner had installed a gage on the Kruzgamepa (now the Pilgrim) River in May 1906 and had been reading the stage each morning and evening before Hoyt and Henshaw arrived on the scene and began operating the station. Nine regular gaging stations were established and measurements were made at several other points until the season ended in early October 1906.

The first season's work on the Seward Peninsula demonstrated the value of the streamflow records to the placer mining industry, and in 1907, work was continued there, and with an increase in funding and the number of field men, extended to the upper Yukon River Basin, 400 miles inland. Twenty-seven stations were maintained in 1907. Funding was increased again in 1908, and for the first time work began before spring runoff had begun. C.C. Covert from the New York district reached Valdez in late March 1908, still wintertime in Alaska, and Covert experienced temperatures of nearly 50 degrees below zero on the ice and snow route to Fairbanks. Stream-gaging activities in Alaska waxed and waned over the next few years in concert with the funds allotted to the work. Activity on the Seward Peninsula was materially reduced in 1910, but an increase in funds in 1911 enabled some work to begin along the Yukon River near Eagle, near the Alaska boundary with Canada. At the end of the 1912 season, however, Brooks wrote "The investigations of the Yukon-Tanana region have been carried on since 1906. It is believed that the stream-gaging data...are sufficient to serve as a guide to the placer miner. In view of the urgent demand for investigations of water supply in other parts of the Territory, the work in this region will be discontinued for the present."

In 1913, activities shifted to the lower Copper River country and the Prince William Sound region, where rapid development had led to the demand for power. Reconnaissance there included not only streamflow measurements but a search for sites with available head for generating water power. Discharge measurements were made where possible, gages were installed, and the head at potential water-power sites was estimated from the few available maps. Regarding these investigations, Dr. Brooks wrote "These investigations should be followed by studies of streamflow extending through a period of years sufficiently long to afford data for accurate generalization of stream volume. This work will be begun as soon as circumstances permit. For the present it must be deferred, as the annual grant of funds must be used for what are believed to be more important surveys and investigations."

A few more excerpts (“lightly” edited by C.Z.) from Follansbee’s account give some insights to the experiences and reactions of the Survey’s early streamgagers in Alaska:

- Measurements of large streams such as the Yukon River offered a challenge to the ingenuity and stamina of the streamgager. C.E. Ellsworth’s measurement of the Yukon in early May of 1910, before the ice went out, provides an example. At the measuring section near Rampart, the width was 1,560 feet and the ice 4 ½-feet thick. A fair day’s task, to be sure!
- While the initial trips to distant Alaska might have been considered grand adventures, the day-to-day work of the streamgager was not always glamorous. One evening, while C.C. Covert was seated close to a smoky campfire and fighting off swarms of hungry mosquitoes, he was heard to mutter, “I don’t know what to do. If I don’t do a good job, I’ll be fired; and if I do, I’ll be sent back here next year.” He was sent back.
- As field conditions in Alaska were unknown to the early streamgagers, Hoyt asked one of the geologists of the Alaskan Division about the best means of transportation. He was told that a buckboard was most convenient, so upon arriving in Nome he procured such a vehicle, with a single horse. He and Henshaw started out on the buckboard to conquer new worlds, but found almost immediately that the advice given was good “only so far as it went.” It did not specify that the tires should have been at least 4 inches wide to prevent sinking into the soft tundra, nor that two horses were necessary as the tracks worn by the commonly used two-horse team traveling abreast had a high ridge between them. After floundering along on their first day, during which the buckboard sank into the tundra and the horse kept slipping off the high center ridge, the buckboard was abandoned in disgust. The single horse was converted into a pack animal for supplies and equipment and the men traveled by “mushing” on foot.

*The source for this brief account was “A History of the Water Resources Branch of the United States Geological Survey to June 30, 1919,” by Robert Follansbee. Photos of J.C. Hoyt and F.F. Henshaw at work on the Seward Peninsula appear on the cover of the May 2008 Directory of WRD Retirees.

**In the excerpt from Follansbee that I had at hand, the relation or connection between the Division of Hydrography, the Hydrographic Branch, and the Water Resources Branch is not entirely clear; my apologies if I have misrepresented the affiliations of the engineers and/or the credit for the work done by those units of the Survey. Also, if you have occasion to scan Follansbee’s treatise, you will find that in addition to using direct quotes, I have drawn freely from it, using his wording and sentence structure in the narrative as well.

WRD FIELDWORK STORIES

Cableway Repairs

Soon after transferring back to the Ithaca Subdistrict WRD Office in 1974, I began to notice some deficiencies with the cableways. I made my concerns known to the Office Chief, Harold Shindel, who with little hesitation appointed me to be in charge of cableway safety... the old squeaking wheel deal! We spent many long days that year bringing all the cableways up to safety standards. Most of the work was pretty basic -- clearing brush and trees from cross sections, digging out long buried anchor pins -- but some jobs were very involved, like replacement of A-frames and cables. One of the more complex jobs stands out as one of those days where nothing seemed to go right. The cableway at Owasco Lake Outlet near Auburn had old wooden timber A-frames that needed replacement as dry-rot had set in. Most of Ithaca's wooden A-frames had been replaced earlier under Russ Wagner's supervision, but somehow Auburn was overlooked. Major repairs to cableways on the opposite bank from the gaging station often entail long drives and some are not reachable by vehicle, as was the case at Auburn. Because the flow is nearly totally regulated at a hydropower project several miles upstream, one has to be sure the flow is at minimum and will remain there during the duration of the project. We called the City of Auburn and were assured the water levels would be kept low on our scheduled work day. Plenty of time was spent on the phone chasing down parts, loading heavy steel A-frames on a trailer, arranging other technicians' schedules so we could have a good sized crew to ensure we were able to complete the job in one day, and all the other details required for a project of this nature. Finally, everything was in place and we all agreed to meet early the next morning to make the most of what would be a long day.

We arrived at the gage about 0800 and began to make preparations for the A-frame swap. We were pleased to note the flow was just a trickle as the city had promised. The most difficult part of the day would be moving the 800 pound far bank A-frame to its location across the river. The banks were too steep and rough to drive, but we planned to carry, drag, and float the A-frame across. We were just about ready to move the A-frame when the flow suddenly increased to a level above wading stage, "drowning" our plans. This was way before the age of cell phones and there were no pay phones anywhere near our location, so we had no way to call the city to ask them to cut the release back. We had a lot of effort invested so alternatives were quickly reviewed. I concluded we could ferry the A-frame across on the cableway itself. Yes, it was well known the wooden frames were in poor shape and condemned, but I was willing to gamble they would hold up for one more "stress test." The plan was to suspend the A-frame from the cable on a snatch block which I would tow across while seated in the cable car. When I released from the left bank the high weight caused more than normal sag, enough that the legs of the A-frame dragged in the water as we neared the center of the stream. So, now I am not only on an overloaded cableway, but the downstream pull is probably exceeding all reasonable safe limits. The drag was causing my forward progress with the car puller to be nearly at the limit of my strength. I briefly considered cutting the A-frame loose, but was worried about the sling shot affect, so I dug in and pulled with all my might and finally cleared the fast current and safely made the right bank. It probably was not more than 15 minutes after I made the far bank that the flow was suddenly cut back to its original low rate. I have no idea what was going on at the city dam, but we jokingly decided the entire city of Auburn had flushed their commodes all at once. Well, fortunately the rest of the day went reasonably well and we finished the repairs as planned.

Most Safety Officers would have a heart attack over the actions described above, but in defense sometimes we did things in the field to get a job done and safety was placed in the background. It was a gamble, but it paid off in that we accomplished our scheduled work and no one was injured. In fact, the only one placed in harms way was yours truly and it was my choice. Writing this story over 30 years after the fact, it is hard to see the humor, and it wasn't very funny when I was caught in the middle of the stream feeling like a fish on a hook, but the humor seemed to grow in proportion to the number of beers consumed during happy hour as the years passed. Then there was the time we were removing an old wooden shelter from a concrete stilling well with a big overhead crane. We had removed all the sill bolts and the crane began to lift but nothing was happening except the crane boom was bending in a sick arch. The shelter frame was stuck on the anchor bolts but suddenly broke loose and shot up like a Saturn rocket, then began yo-yoing fiercely. We all scattered, but eventually things settled down and no harm was done. Somewhere in Ithaca's photo archives is a shot of the crane boom bent nearly double just before the release.

Speaking of airborne gage shelters, there was the time we were abandoning an old wooden shelter and decided to burn it down. We splashed several gallons of gasoline over the shelter then began looking for matches. By the time we found matches much of the fumes had settled into the well, so when we finally touched it off it literally blew the shelter 4 feet into the air, but luckily it settled back in place on the well where it burned up nicely, saving us a lot of work. Every technician has similar field stories to tell, let's see a few of them written up on these pages!

Alan C. Brown, Grand Rivers, Kentucky, March 30, 2008

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Back passed away on January 31, 2008, in Honolulu, at age 82. Bill was a research hydrologist at the USGS for 46 years, retiring in 1997, and was famous internationally for his work on carbonate rock aquifers. Bill was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1948. He received an MS in geology from the University of California, a Master's from Harvard in public administration, and a Ph. D. in hydrogeology from the University of Nevada. Bill received the M. King Hubbert Award of the National Ground Water Association and the C.V. Theis Award of the American Institute of Hydrology. He was active in the International Association of Hydrogeologists, the Geological Society of America, and the Cosmos Club. A Memorial for Bill will appear in the August Newsletter. He is survived by his wife, Connie; three sons: Scott, Peter and David; a daughter, Nancy Murphy; and 6 grandchildren.

Marston "Stann" Chase died on January 27, 2008, at his home in Washington, D.C. He was 82 and the husband of WRD Retiree Edith Chase. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, during WW II he served with the U.S. Army 128th AAA Gun Battalion under General Patton. On return to civilian life, he graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a BS in Geology and also attended the University of Wisconsin. Most of his career he was a geologist with the USGS and then the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation. His wife, Edith, worked for USGS beginning in 1952 and with WRD in 1962. She excelled as a Technical Publications Editor and worked on projects, including the State water folders and Techniques for WR Investigations, retiring in 1994. Stann is survived by his wife, Edith.

Don Fogarty, 87, died March 11, 2005, in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Don was a WW II veteran of the U.S. Navy and graduated from Tufts University with a BS in CE in 1941. He began his USGS career as a Hydraulic Engineer with the SW branch in Boston in 1955. He spent his entire WRD career in Boston specializing in surface water data collection and flood analysis, retiring in 1980. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth.

Jane Idler, wife of WRD Retiree Gerry Idler, passed away June 26, 2002, in Saint Cloud, Florida, at age 51. Jane was a Minnesota native and attended St. Cloud College. Jane and Gerry were married in 1974 and she traveled with him often on his USGS field trips. Gerry was a Hydrologic Technician with the GW Hydraulics Lab in Denver from 1961-84 and later served in Atlanta. After Jane's last daughter reached pre-school age, she returned to Lanier Tech and earned a degree in early childhood development. She used that education working in a daycare center in Buford, Georgia, and also became a Girl Scout leader, achieving a Life-Time Girl Scout achievement award. After Gerry's retirement from the USGS in 1997, they moved to Saint Cloud, Florida, where she went to work at Walt Disney World, her life time dream, and became Food and Service training co-coordinator. Two years later, just before health problems, she was nominated to the highest honor of Disney employees, the Partners In Excellence Award. Between the time of her selection and the awards ceremony, she fell victim to a brain tumor and total loss of vision in one eye. Jane and Gerry had a front row table at the awards ceremony and Michael Eisner joined them for a personal visit with Jane. She leaves behind four daughters: two biological, one step, and one adopted, and 5 grandsons: three step, two biological.

Margaret "Maggie" Hellyer-Malesky of Tacoma, Washington, died on December 15, 2007, a few days after attending a WRD Retirees breakfast. She was 90. Maggie worked for the USGS from 1951-84, starting with the GW Branch in Tacoma as a clerk-typist. At the time of her retirement, she was a technical editor. Maggie was a deeply religious person who was happy and effervescent. With her adventurous spirit she was continually on the go. She and her husband, Jim, were active Elderhostelers. They took a river-rafting trip in the Grand Canyon and snowshoe trips among the local mountains. Among her hobbies was entering various contests that tested her creative writing and trivia-remembering skills. Those on her emailing list were recipients of frequent messages devoted to God, country, and unbounded patriotism. Maggie is survived by her husband, Jim Malesky; daughter, Carol Crawford; son, Robert Hellyer; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Leon J. Jensen passed away on December 14, 2007, at age 89. A Utah native, he graduated in 1940 from Utah State Agricultural College with a BS in Civil Engineering. Then, he started his WRD career as a Hydraulic Engineer with the SW Branch in Portland, Oregon. Leon transferred to Salt Lake City in 1965 and worked there until his retirement in 1980. His USGS career included data collection for the Central Utah Project and for construction of Flaming Gorge Dam and Lake Powell. A WW II U.S. Army Air Corp vet he

IN MEMORIAM

served in the Pacific: Guam, Kwajalein and Hawaii. He earned the rank of Captain and worked on maintenance of B-29s. A month after the war, he flew over Nagasaki and Hiroshima and saw the devastation caused by the atomic bombs. After WW II, he met and later married Verda Cloe Nelson on July 31, 1946 in the Cardston, Alberta, Canada LDS Church -- recently celebrating their 61st anniversary. They traveled to China, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe. Leon loved his self-built cabin in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah. He is survived by his wife, Verda; children, Carol Lasson, Lana Jardine, Julie Larsen, L. James Jensen, Joyce Morgan, and David Jensen; 24 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

Alice Duran-Konieczki passed away on December 30, 2007. Alice, age 54, was diagnosed with brain cancer about a year ago and fought valiantly against this terrible disease. She is survived by a brother, Mario, and a sister, Anna. Alice retired from the USGS in August 2007. In the field of hydrology, she was a pioneer in many ways. In 1975, Alice was the second female to graduate from the Hydrology Department at the University of Arizona. She started working for the USGS as a student in 1974 and was one of the first female hydrologists in the Arizona District. She spent her entire USGS career in Tucson.

Edward Ross "Ed" Leggat, 87, of Austin passed away on October 4, 2007. He was born in Mount Vernon, New York. After high school, Ed worked for the Works Project Administration. During WW II he served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. In 1942, he married Dorothy Atkinson, a member of the Army Nurse Corps. He attended the University of Texas on the GI bill, receiving a BS in Geology. Ed began his USGS career as a Geologist with the GW Branch in Austin in 1948 and served in Texas until he transferred to California in 1977, retiring in 1980. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy; daughters, Bonnie Hagan and Alice Wendlandt; and two grandchildren. Ed and Dorothy traveled many times to Scotland to visit family. He had a lifelong love of all things Scottish: haggis, oat cakes, bagpipes, and tartan plaids. He loved the outdoors and baseball, particularly the Texas Rangers and the New York Yankees.

John D. Scopi passed away on December 22, 2002. WRD Retirees just recently learned of John's death. He was born on February 28, 1916 and began his WRD career as an Accountant and Fiscal Assistant with the Administrative Section in 1957 and served there until his retirement in 1972. He was living in Germantown, Maryland, at the time of his death.

Gerald L. "Gerry" Thompson died December 7, 2007, in Delaware, Ohio, at age 80. Gerry graduated from Ohio State in 1952 with a BS in Geology and an MS in 1955. He worked for California-Texas Oil Co. from 1955-60 and joined WRD as a Physical Science Tech. with the GW Branch in St. Paul in 1960. He transferred to the Texas District in 1962 to work as a Geologist on the Edwards Limestone project and in 1971 joined OWDC, becoming the Assistant Chief of NAWDEX in 1976. He loved the outdoors -- particularly salt water fishing. He also loved birds and was an active member of the Audubon society. Gerry retired in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Thea and sons, Gary and Leo.

Robert Bernard "Bob" Wall, 78, of Carriere, Mississippi, passed away February 16, 2008. A Pennsylvania native, Bob enjoyed a long WRD career beginning in 1956 as an Engineering Tech. with the USGS, WRD in Ithaca, New York. He also worked in St. Louis, Atlanta, and Reston, VA. In 1979, he transferred to the Hydrological Instrumentation Facility at Stennis Space Center, retiring in 1984. Following retirement, he worked to the betterment of his community and at the time of his death was the chairman of the Fire Commission for District 11. In recognition of Mr. Wall's long and dedicated service to Fire District #11, and to the Carriere Volunteer Fire Department, Carriere Fire Station #1 will be dedicated as the Robert B. Wall Station. Additionally, Carriere Engine #1 will be dedicated to the memory of "Mr. Bob." Bob was a co-founder of the Picayune Police Senior Patrol which was successful enough to earn him a certificate and medal from the National Police Hall of Fame in 2004. Survivors include his wife, Regina; three children, Ellen Novack, Patrice Curtin, and Matthew Wall; and one granddaughter.

MEMORIAL
Stanley F. Kapustka
1928 – 2007

Stanley F. Kapustka died on November 17, 2007, in Portland, Oregon. Born in Wadowice Gome, Poland, in 1928, Stan moved to the United States with his family in 1936. He often spoke fondly of the first challenge he faced in his new country--learning English. But learn, he did, and he served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman during active duty from 1946 to 1948. After his discharge, Stan enrolled at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, from which he graduated in 1952 with a B.S. in chemistry. He began his USGS career with the QW Branch in Charlottesville, Virginia, in July of that year.



Stan transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in June 1957, charged with the responsibility of establishing a water-quality laboratory. At that time, Louisiana was part of the Texas QW District but soon emerged as the Louisiana QW District, because of Stan's aggressive program development. As the first Louisiana District Chemist, Stan was also responsible for water-quality programs in Mississippi and Alabama. He transferred to Sacramento, California, in 1964, and moved to Menlo Park in 1965, where he was Assistant District Chief for Statewide Programs.

In 1966, Stan was named the first District Chief of the Oregon District and, like all "First" DC's, had the task of consolidating the Branch Offices and personnel in an orderly manner. With the cooperation of staff members, he achieved that objective with a minimum of disruption to the ongoing program. During his time in Oregon, the objective of many projects was to provide information to help cooperators solve practical water problems. This emphasis, fostered by Stan and the staff, contributed greatly to the success of the Oregon Program.

Stan, a licensed pilot, used his flying expertise for a number of projects, especially in Louisiana and Oregon. Projects such as those for which an aerial reconnaissance was helpful, benefited from this skill. He also was instrumental in the photographing of several floods and in the surveying of potential data-collection sites.

While flying over a remote area of Oregon during a reconnaissance of a potential RASA site, Stan and his WRD co-worker noticed two Air National Guard fighter jets cruising below them. "Don't be concerned" Stan told his uneasy passenger, "We're separated by a hundred feet or so. Besides, they're headed in the opposite direction!" An incident such as this illustrates how "unflappable" Stan was, a trait that served him well during his career.

He was named Hawaii District Chief in 1983. Stan helped develop several important DOD projects while in Hawaii. He retired on April 3, 1986, and returned to Portland.

Stan loved a good story, usually embellishing on the tale. Often, he retold the same story to various groups, laughing harder as he approached the "punch line." This is one he never retold! When he was in Baton Rouge, he was the proud owner of a yellow VW "Bug." He bragged and bragged, and bragged about the phenomenal gas mileage his vehicle delivered. One day while driving with a lab employee in the passenger seat, the car sputtered. "Don't worry," said Stan, "I just need to switch to the auxiliary gas tank." Trouble was he already was using the auxiliary tank! "I would just as soon the people back at the office didn't know about this." They did not find out about the incident until "coffee break" the next day!

Stan is survived by his wife, Doris, and by daughter, Louise; sons, Stan and Karl; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He also will be missed by his many friends throughout the USGS, perhaps more so by the people he hired during his assignments. As they and more former co-workers find out about his death, a common thought has often been expressed--"Stan always cared about, and took care of his people." Stan's charismatic personality and quick wit will be remembered. Aloha, Stan.

By: Mike Gaydos

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

If WRD Retirees should belong to any additional retiree organization, it is most certainly the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE).

- **NARFE is an association of nearly 350,000 federal workers and retirees united to preserve the economic security and well-being of federal employees in retirement.**
- **NARFE sponsors and supports legislation to protect the earned retirement benefits and the general welfare of members.**
- **NARFE operates nationwide service centers staffed by volunteers who provide assistance to federal employees, annuitants and survivors.**

NARFE lists five major reasons federal retirees should join!

(1) LET CONGRESS HEAR YOU!

NARFE is the only association dedicated to preserving and improving the retirement benefits of federal employees. Since 1921, NARFE's reputation and power have enabled us to influence legislative decisions that affect your life.

(2) LEARN ABOUT CHANGES

Your federal retirement, life insurance, health benefits and other benefits can change from time to time, and NARFE keeps you abreast of those changes.

(3) GET VALUABLE INFORMATION

NARFE's award-winning monthly magazine contains information you won't find anywhere else on national legislation affecting retired and current employees, questions and answers on federal retirement and health benefits. It also carries financial planning stories and lifestyle features, all written specifically for members of the federal family. NARFE's web site contains vital members-only information.

(4) GET MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

Membership in NARFE has privileges of its own. Earn back your membership dues with valuable savings on auto, long-term care, dental and supplemental insurance plans. From car rentals to moving services, hotels and travel offers, get the most for your money through trusted names you'll recognize. NARFE member discounts mean real savings.

(5) QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

NARFE sponsors 60 scholarships a year, each in the amount of \$1,000. High School seniors who meet the academic requirement and are children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and great-grandchildren of current NARFE members are eligible.

How can you join NARFE: It's easy!

Join By Telephone: Call 1-800-456-8410 or 1-800-627-3394

Join online: Go to the NARFE web page at NARFE.org

Join by U.S. Mail: 606 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1914

USGS Facing Tomorrow's Challenges—An Overview

A Science Strategy for the Future

To be responsive to evolving national and global priorities, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) must periodically review its science goals and directions. The following is a brief overview of a comprehensive science strategy outlining the goals of the USGS for the next decade. The development of a new USGS science strategy for 2007–2017 comes at a time of global trends and rapidly evolving societal needs that pose critical natural-science challenges.

- First, the emergence of a global economy affects the demand for all resources. The world's natural resources, and the materials produced from those resources, are being used on a scale that is modifying the terrestrial, marine, and atmospheric environments upon which human civilization depends. The use of, competition for, and natural threats to resources will affect the Nation's ability to sustain its economy, safeguard its national security, maintain its quality of life, and protect its environment.
- Second, the last decade has witnessed the emergence of ecosystem-based management. By understanding the status of the Nation's natural resources, their interrelations and changes with time, and their resilience to future natural and human-caused threats, decisionmakers will be able to ensure the security of the Nation, promote its economy, protect its environment, and maintain the well-being of its citizens.
- Third, the U.S. Climate Change Science Program predicts that the next few decades will bring rapid changes in the Earth's environment. Land and resource managers will need to understand the implications of climate change as well as anticipate and prepare for its impacts.
- Finally, the environment continues to pose risks to society in the form of volcanoes, earthquakes, wildfires, floods, droughts, invasive species, natural and anthropogenic toxins, and animal-borne diseases that affect humans. Some of these hazards may be magnified by changing climate and will be increased by the movement of the Nation's population to coastal, earthquake-prone, and wildfire-prone areas.

The new USGS science strategy consists of:

- 1) **A National Hazards, Risk, and Resilience Assessment Program:** Ensuring the Long-Term Health and Wealth of the Nation,
- 2) **The Role of Environment and Wildlife in Human Health:** A System that Identifies Environmental Risk to Public Health in America,
- 3) **A Water Census of the United States:** Quantifying, Forecasting, and Securing Freshwater for America's Future,
- 4) **Understanding Ecosystems and Predicting Ecosystem Change:** Ensuring the Nation's Economic and Environmental Future,
- 5) **Climate Variability and Change:** Clarifying the Record and Assessing Consequences, and
- 6) **Energy and Minerals for America's Future:** Providing a Scientific Foundation for Resource Security, Environmental Health, Economic Vitality, and Land Management.

This strategy will be implemented at a time when the Nation can benefit greatly by using natural-science information in its decisionmaking. The USGS is well positioned to address the challenge of providing this information. It is the Nation's and the world's leading natural science and information agency. Its workforce of nearly 9,000 scientists and support staff, distributed in about 400 locations, collects and interprets data from tens of thousands of biologic, geologic, and hydrologic sampling sites throughout the Nation as the only integrated natural resources research bureau in the Federal Government. The USGS maintains a broad scope of research activities and long-term data sets, such as:

- Information relating to natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, landslides, and coastal erosion; energy and mineral resources; and geologic processes that affect the Nation's land and coasts;
- Real-time flood data and information on the quality and quantity of surface- and ground-water resources;
- Information critical to animal health, identifying and dealing with invasive species, biologic species management, and ecosystems; and
- Geospatial data, topographic maps, and satellite images critical to emergency response, homeland security, land-use planning, and resource management.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2008

Treasurer Celso Puentes reports that the organization had \$9,505.20 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2008. Receipts for the quarter were \$5,339.57 from dues and contributions from 225 members. Disbursements for the quarter were \$2,241.56, including the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 138 and \$1,000.00 for the 2008 WRD Retirees Reunion at Tampa, Florida.

During the quarter a total of \$1,240.00 was received in contributions from 71 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Albert N. Cameron, Gerald F. McCain, Mrs. James R. Jones, Ann C. Beam, Herb Hanson, Richard Engberg, Kenneth L. Walters, Robert Boulger, Theodore Sieger, Claire A. Richardson, Terry L. Katzer, Stanley P. Sauer, Chuck F. Berkstresser, Mrs. Fred "Ann" Mack, Mrs. T. William Lambert, Mrs. Bernard A. "Mary Lou" Malo, Mrs. John Molley, Mrs. William Price, Richmond F. Brown, Jack Weeks, Jesse Klingler, Douglas Posson, Richard and Debbie Lumia, Eugene Patten, Malcolm Hale, Leslie Lenfest, Jr., Nancy C. Bley, Leonard A. Wood, Charles Novak, George T. Cardwell, Wayne Hammond, Donald E. Hillier, Donald Jorgensen, Mrs. Earl "Betty Jean" Webber, David D. Harris, Kerry T. Garcia, Alice Di Iandro, Allen C. Brown, Steve Van Denburgh, Wendell Tangborn, Michael Galvez, Philip Cohen, William Kirby, Joe Moreland, Robert Joseph, Irwin H. Kantrowitz, Ralph Cheng, Thomas Huntzinger, John P. Borland, Mrs. Clyde Conover, Mrs. Wilson G. "Harriet" Bonham, Edmund F. Leroux, Vernon Sauer, Russell E. Curtis, Karen S. Steele, Helen Larson, Luther Mills, Dee Molenaar, Russ McAvoy, Paul Moleski, Robert Laney, Gerhard Kuhn, Linda V. Beale, John T. Conomos, Harry Tanaka, Donald Spencer, Douglas Batemon, Rene Barker, Harry E. Le Grande, Allen F. Agnew, and James Gemmell.

WRD Retirees Dues Policy for Widows and Widowers

There are currently about 170 members in this category. Surviving spouses receive complimentary membership to WRD Retirees. If you are in this category and would like to make a contribution to the treasury we would appreciate the gesture -- however, annual dues are not required.

Help WRD Retirees by having your copy of the Newsletter delivered by email.

Help us by sending Mike Gaydos an email message today (TigerLSU2@cox.net) asking that your name be added to the list of WRD Retirees who have their Newsletter delivered by email. If you receive your copy of the Newsletter by email, it will be delivered two to three weeks before the printed copies are delivered by U.S. Mail! In addition, the email version is in full color. About 300 WRD Retirees have elected to have their copy of the WRD Retirees Newsletter delivered by email and they are very satisfied. Additionally, about 250 copies of the Newsletter are sent to USGS offices throughout the country using email. Distributing these 550 copies of the Newsletter by email is a great help to our organization because volunteers don't need to put the printed version in envelopes, seal them, and apply mailing labels. Also, email delivery of the Newsletter eliminates printing and mailing expenses!

To receive your Newsletter by email, you need a personal computer attached to the Internet via a relatively high speed link. If you have this capability, please consider having your Newsletter delivered by email. It's easy to do -- simply contact Mike Gaydos at TigerLSU2@cox.net. He will take care of the rest. If, by some chance you are not satisfied, contact Mike. We believe you will enjoy the email version of your WRD Retirees Newsletter. Please remember if you want a printed copy you can easily print a copy from the email copy we send. We sincerely thank everyone who has elected this option. It sure is a big help to the Newsletter staff and the retirees who volunteer to "stuff envelopes." Again, please help us by sending Mike Gaydos an email message today (TigerLSU2@cox.net) asking that your name be added to the list of WRD Retirees who have their Newsletter delivered by email. Thanks!