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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 151  
May 2011

*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

I guess I should stop griping about the weather back here in the east. So far, we've had a nice spring; quite a bit of rain but some very beautiful days. The business of the WRD Retirees seemed to be a little lighter since the last newsletter was published. At first, I couldn't figure it out but then the light bulb went on. Jim Biesecker was in Australia for about five weeks during the period! One aspect of the retirees that was extremely active was the planning for the biennial reunion in Boise, Idaho, in September of 2012 (see Kathy Peter's note on p. 6 under "News of Retirees). In addition to the three days of the reunion, Idaho offers great opportunities for a nice vacation. Yellowstone National Park is only about a 7-hour drive from Boise (sounds like a big drive for our easterners, but it's not in the west). Speaking of easterners, I'm willing to bet that there are a huge number of retirees from the Northeastern and Southeastern Regions that have never been to Idaho or the surrounding states. This is your opportunity to get there. Don't miss it! There will be more details on the reunion in each of the newsletters in the coming year.

Each year, we lose a significant number of our colleagues and spouses due to death and the last quarter was no different. I would like to say a few words about two of them, John Wark and Owen Bricker who both influenced my career.

I only met John Wark about four times, all at biennial reunions, but we developed a strong bond. We were both District Chiefs of the Maryland, Delaware, DC District (MD-DE-DC) at some point in our careers and we spent a lot of time talking District issues. John, a renowned sediment expert, was the first District Chief of MD-DE-DC after the Leopold reorganization; Finch White was the second and I was the third. With the passing of both John and Finch, that leaves me as the oldest living former District Chief of the MD-DE-DC. Retirement is great but it sure moves on in a hurry!

Owen Bricker was a geochemist in the Northeastern Region Research group when I worked in Reston from 1977-80 at which point I went to Maryland as District Chief. Shortly thereafter, one morning Owen was standing at my door and said he needed to talk to me. He wanted to work at the District office for up to two days a week so he could spend more time with his family at his farm north of Baltimore. I said YES and it turned out to be the best snap decision I ever made. Owen came to the district to do his research but wound up mentoring our young folks most of the time on technical and project matters. He was extremely valuable to the District.

There is an organization called National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) that I wish you would consider joining if you haven't already. They are our voices in Congress when the matter of Federal Retiree annuities and benefits are up for debate. I feel a lot more comfortable with an organized group looking out for us on these issues. If you need information, contact Bill Boning at 703-435-0031 or [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net).

I have appointed Jim Blakey and Jim Biesecker to develop a slate of candidates for the election of new WRD Retiree officers in November. If you are willing to serve, please contact one of them -- their phone numbers and email addresses are in the directory.

Pat and I wish you a great spring and summer and please keep the Boise reunion in mind.



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**Andy Anderson** says the 30 retirees/spouses who attended the March HQ retiree lunch heard an entertaining and information presentation from **Martha Scholl** of the Research program. She gave a talk on Echohydrology of Tropical Mantane Cloud Forests. **Isabelle Haley DesFontaines** and **Lari Lopp** gave a very interesting talk at the April meeting about their recent visit to Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The slides of scenery, animals and water were amazing. They also showed several great videos. There were about 35 retirees/spouses in attendance.

**Jeff Armbruster** reports, "The Armbrusters manage to stay pretty busy most of the time. **Laurel** is about to complete her retirement process. I am doing a great deal of one-on-one executive coaching, many of my clients are recent graduates of the FEI's month-long training program, but am also working with some executives from Defense. Have also been out and about giving a lot of presentations on the major messages from our recently published book "Some Practical Lessons in Leadership--Observations from Daily Life." While we have not made the New York Times bestseller list (and never will!), we have been getting some positive feedback about the importance of servant leadership and the impact that it has on the lives of others. Surely enjoyed the Denver gathering and seeing so many of you back in September. We wish each of you happiness and good health."

**Jim and Vivian Bailey** write, "We enjoy the Newsletter. Things have been relatively quiet in Amherst except for a wind storm that took a 70 foot poplar down in our backyard. The tree didn't hit anything important but it reminded us the nature is still top dog! Best of luck to all WRD Retirees."

**Jim Biesecker** reports, "**Joyce** and I spent a wonderful 4 weeks in Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji during February and March. Australia is wonderful, full of good beer and people. Nobody should visit Australia and not go to the Outback – it's amazing. Ayer's rock was spiritual. Joyce and I wanted to see if all Australians are as nice as our friend **Judy Weeks**, a native Australian, and we learned most of them are. New Zealand, the south island, has the most beautiful scenery. Queenstown is simply gorgeous. We missed seeing Christchurch because of the earthquake but instead got to visit a very interesting geothermal area. The resort in Fiji was a terrific way to end the trip and we learned about the Chief's cannibal fork. It was nice to be home after 4 weeks and 11 flights."

**Bob Boulger** reports, "I sincerely appreciate the investment WRD Retirees provides in the development of hydrologic technicians through the scholarships"

**Bush Boyd** says, "Thanks for all the work of the Newsletter staff in publishing the Newsletter."

**Bob Burchett** reports, "**Libby** and I experienced something quite strange this winter -- our swimming pool burned down! For some reason the pump caught fire and fierce winds caused the fire to spread to the deck. I asked the Fire Chief if he had ever been called to put out a fire in a swimming pool. He said that he couldn't recall one. When we reported the fire to our insurance company the agent also said this was a first for him. The good news is nobody was injured."

**Phil Carpenter** writes, "TELL ME THIS WON'T HAPPEN TO US!!!! An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: 'They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!' she cried. The dispatcher said, 'stay calm. An officer is on the way.' A few minutes later, the officer radios in 'Disregard'. She got in the back-seat by mistake."

**Bob Cory** reports, "Thanks so much for the great Newsletters. My wife **Jane** and I like to sit together while I read her some of the stories such as the retiree who works at the airline. That gave the idea of writing a short story that might be of interest to my fellow retirees even though most of you don't know me. I was one of the first oceanographer/marine biologists interviewed and hired by Walt Durum at Headquarters in early 1960. At the same time **Orlo Childs**, a petroleum geologist, was hired to head up multi-million dollar marine program that was to extend Water Resources interest, from the high tide line, seaward. Orlo was built like an NFL linebacker. I was present at the meeting when we were informed that the budget was reduced to a pittance. Orlo responded to that news by slamming his fist on the table, rattling the coffee cups and resigning on the spot! In the next Newsletter, I'll tell of my subsequent luncheon appointment with WRD Chief Hydrologist **Luna Leopold** and his Associate **Ray Nace**. Jane and I will both be 85 this year. She is still running the household, meals, laundry, etc and I'm still doing Christmas trees and honey bees but in a much reduced fashion."

**L. J. Dantin** says, "I really enjoy the Newsletter."

**Curt Davis** reports, "Thanks to all the retirees who volunteer and keep WRD Retirees running. Keep up the good work with my best wishes."

**Phil Emery** writes, "Because I'm such a rare person, I have a rather rare condition called Myelodysplastic Syndrome. I am receiving injections to help my bone marrow produce cells. I am now feeling much better and also recovering from Shingles. **Janet** has been my excellent nurse. We are looking forward to spring."

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**Glen Faulkner** says, "I just want to say that I continue very much to enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter and think you folks do a great job. I do note that, as one might expect, the names I recognize from the News of Retirees gradually becomes less and less. **Beth** and I remain well and happy here in Duluth, GA, where we have many friends since moving some 15 miles north of our place in Atlanta about 12 years ago. We keep plenty busy around here. Beth has run the Duluth Art Gallery for nearly three years now, which displays the work of some 60 artists. I continue doing quite a lot of woodworking, especially woodturning. We both find plenty to do keeping up with this 110-year old house and the yard. I also continue to enjoy the monthly lunches with our local WRD retiree group."

**Herb Freiburger** says, "**Pat** and I are doing well even with all the aches and pains that begin at our age. We did, however, lose Pat's father who was 94 years old. He lived with us when he passed in March. In the last issue of the newsletter, Jim Daniel wrote a short amusing story about a fellow who worked for Papadopoulos and Associates. The fellow was trying to board an aircraft with an instrument to measure ground-water well characteristics. Jim, who then worked for that airline, baffled the guy by asking how Stavros was doing and left it at that.

"I also have a Stavros Papadopoulos story. Between 1977 and 1980, I worked in Reston in a management trainee position on the staff of the Regional Hydrologist, Northeastern Region. Stavros was a renowned ground-water researcher in the Northeast Research Group. He sat just around the corner from me and we spoke a lot. Between 1977 and 1980, Stavros, Steve Larson and others left the USGS to form the consulting firm, Papadopoulos and Associates. In 1980, I left to become District Chief, MD-DE-DC in Towson, MD. One of the first things I did, as District Chief was to see who our cooperators were. I quickly noticed that Montgomery County, MD was not among them. At that time, Montgomery County, which abuts Washington, DC, was the wealthiest county in Maryland and among the top five in the USA. I immediately set up a meeting with the Director of Water Programs for the county. Days later, I arrived on time for a meeting at the county. The receptionist told me that the Director was in a meeting with a client and it was running late. Finally, the door opened and out came the Director. There was another fellow with him. You guessed it! It was Stavros Papadopoulos! When Stavros saw me, he put on that sly Greek smile and in front of the County Director said, while wagging his finger at me, "I know a little something about that training program you were in and it says you, as a USGS employee, shall not compete with the private sector." He then went on to say while smirking "I can only conclude that a) you fell asleep during that part of the course, or b) you don't seem to give a damn." As I

think back on the situation, the answer was probably b). By the way, my meeting with the Director didn't go very well. The bottom line though, is that I'll always remember Stavros as one of the good guys."

**Joe Gates** writes, "I'm still enjoying retirement, especially on Monday mornings when I can just roll over and go back to sleep. Also fun to have grandchildren, although only one of 6 is interested in rocks. Have done a few work-type things--led a Utah Geol. Assn. fieldtrip to western Utah (which was like working full-time for several months). Lots of interest/controversy in this area because Las Vegas plans a \$3 billion ground-water withdrawal project (largest such in US history) in basins along the UT/NV border to bring water to the Las Vegas area. Also developed an interesting hobby of teaching local geology at Snowbird Ski Resort, which involved a lot of hiking and reading to figure it all out and do some trail logs. I've had 3 bouts of unrelated cancers, one of which was life-threatening, but hopefully they're gone--I definitely don't want any more of that. I also had a recent conversation with **Robert L. (Bob) Cushman**, whose last assignment was as District Chief in Wyoming, from 1967-72. He lives alone in a retirement home in Cheyenne and is approaching the age of 94. He still tries to walk a lot, even though he has a recent pacemaker, and his eyesight is almost gone. He still keeps up world events, probably because of his USGS assignments in Pakistan and Egypt."

**Pat Glancy** reports, "On February 3, 2011, former Nevada District Hydrologist **Gene Rush**, was presented with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Nevada Water Resources Association for his contributions to understanding Nevada water resources. This proud occasion provide the impetus for a reunion of Gene's coworkers from the 60s and 70s. Our reunion buffet was attended by **Gene** and **Margaret Rush** and son, **Daniel**; **Jim** and **Pat Harrill**, **Steve Van Denburgh**, **Tom Eakin**, **Terry Hatyer**, **Frank Olmsted** and **Pat** and **Judy Glancy**. Rick Felling, a former student employee of Gene's, now of the Nevada State Engineer's staff, also attended. Many hilarious work events were rehashed to the delight of all present."

**Bruce Hansen** writes, "I continue to work as a Geologist for the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. I also continue to run a small Christmas tree farm in Haverhill – hope to convert to full time farming (retirement) in the near future."

**Paul Hayes** says, "I've been retired for just over 8 years, I have no idea where the time has gone. We continue to snowbird between Indianapolis and Sacramento. We have to return to Sacramento every 90 days for my wife, **Alice**. She is in a clinical study at US Davis for MS. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> and last year on the study so we may be changing our travel habits after Jan. 2012. In July, we decided to drive out to California with a side trip to Mount

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Rushmore. We had to forego the Rushmore trip as I spent day two of our trip in the emergency room in a hospital outside Des Moines, IA, with a "locked-up" lower back. Two short and strong drugs and we were on our way a day later. When we arrived in Sacramento we decide to tow our 1968 Mercury Cougar back with us. We now have 2 CA original Cougars with us in Indianapolis. We have won numerous awards at local shows with these "cats." They are also a nice addition at my annual MS benefit car show. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> year doing this benefit. I also work part-time at my old High School, Bishop Chatard, during the summer months mostly doing lawn maintenance and acting as a mentor to several young students. I really enjoy this as it helps me keep young. Also, being with my 2 grandsons is a joy beyond description. Keep up the good job on the Newsletter. Just one suggestion – please check out the pictures of the retirees, because since I have not aged any, there seems to be a lot of "old" people among them!"

**Ivan James** writes, "Hi to all those friends in WRD retiree land. We continue to do much as we have for the past several years with frequent visits to visit our 3-year old grandson and his parents in Fort Worth, TX, and our son, Scott, and his wife in the village of Miesau, Germany near the Ramstein Air Force Base. Scott will retire from the Air Force in May and is taking a civilian DOD job at the same location so our vacations to Germany will continue. I am in my eighth year on the board of directors of the Colorado Bowhunters Association and my sixth year as Vice-Chairman for Legislation. I spend a lot of time during the January to May state legislative session as a registered volunteer lobbyist working on bills that affect wildlife and habitat. I also teach youth archery or give archery instructor past and to fall I was fortunate enough to draw an archery bighorn sheep tag in Colorado bow hunt caribou southwest of Denali in Alaska, the latter which caused me to miss seeing many of you at the Denver WRD Retiree's Reunion. The views of Denali and Mount Foraker and the northern lights were spectacular. I have an Alberta moose hunt planned for the fall. **Sara** visits her mother in Kansas City monthly and continues to work part time as a CPA. We are planning a June trip and point-to-point walking tour in the English Cotswolds. The Genesee neighborhood has a hiking/snowshoeing/X-C skiing club which **Russ** and **Anita Livingston** also belong to and I make their weekly trips whenever I can. I continue to make annual April trips to New Hampshire to manage my timber property there and visit **David** and **Jean Moody**. On this year's trip I plan to also visit **Pat Walker** who I haven't seen for several years though we keep in touch. With the WRD no longer producing a telephone directory it is more difficult to keep in touch with working friends. Sara and I send our best wishes to you all."

**Toni Johnson** writes, "I just spent most of March in Chicago, helping my mother celebrate 100 years! We had relatives come in from 4 states for a family

celebration over the weekend. We got a grand suite at the historic Drake Hotel just two blocks from her home -- when the guests checked in, they not only had champagne on ice, but a special birthday cake for the big day! We had all ages from 4 to 100, plus one on the way. Mom was worried for weeks that she wouldn't survive for her birthday, but she rose to the occasion like the trouper she is. Since the big events, she's received so many flowers, cards and letters that she remains a very happy lady - we are so lucky to still have each other! At our home in Delaware the hyacinths and daffodils are blooming. If we have a few warm days, there are buds on our flowering almond and dogwoods that are ready to bloom, and shoots of tulips and lilies popping up all over. I want to thank all the wonderful folks in Colorado for their hard work and the great time I had at the Retirees convention -- it was my first, and it was a real treat to see so many folks from all over the country! It was also a chance to see some personal Colorado friends from the time I lived there, before I even worked for the survey. The field trip to Georgetown was a special treat for **Joe** and me and we thoroughly enjoyed the day! We also got to spend a day in Conifer with our friends **Curt** and **Jo Ann Schnepf Huffman**, including a hike to see the first Colorado gold leaves, and lunch at a local winery restaurant. A wonderful trip I will always remember."

**Sol Lang** says, "**Yette** and I send regards to other retirees. We enjoy the Newsletter."

**Hal Langford**, at the April retirees' lunch, read some interesting quotes from recent USGS budget hearings. Rep. Doug Lamborn said "Where is the "geology" in the United States Geological Survey? If I was to guess the name of your agency by looking at the budget it would be called the United States Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Monitoring Service." Rep. Chuck Fleischmann echoed the same theme, asking why USGS would cut its natural hazards program, which he said would save lives in the future, and not its climate change program. The hearing closed with Chairman Mike Simpson saying "I think among both Republicans and Democrats, you've got some fans in Congress on what USGS does and the way they do it."

**Anna Lennox** reports, "Frankly, I think retirement SUCKS!!! Working was a lot more fun, although I did the usual amount of griping, etc. Of course, the fact that I had the best job in the USGS (in the WRD international office) may have had a positive impact. Now that I'm retired, I've really had time to enjoy my four kids. Since my husband died in 1985, I'm pretty much alone. My best friend is my dog, a 90-pound Chesapeake Bay retriever named Quill. Strangely, Quill does not like men--consequently, my 2 sons must phone when they arrive in my driveway (2 times per week) and I put Quill in my bedroom until they go home. Ditto for my grandsons. I normally have lunch with my youngest daughter weekly and baby-sit my 2 great-granddaughters

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weekly (they live in Culpepper) with their parents. My eldest child lives with me (daughter), although she's thinking of buying a home of her own in the foreseeable future. With housing prices at near record lows, it makes sense. I've traveled to Germany, England, Belgium, and France but don't have an opportunity to travel nearly as much as I did while working. I still maintain frequent contact with old friends (via email). I enjoy the WRD newsletter and luncheons each month (for those in the D.C. area). For those of you who haven't joined WRD retirees, I heartily recommend that you do so (that includes people who actively participate in the work force, as well as retirees). And a word to those who are still employed--think about retirement before you "take the plunge," have a plan, leisure time can become burdensome. It's fun, but . . . . ."

**Russ Livingston** writes, "After 40 years of pulling tent and travel trailers around the country my wife, **Anita**, and I decided to try driving our "home away from home" rather than pulling it, which had become a chore at times. So, in December we bought a 2003 Itasca Horizon "diesel pusher" motor home, which we took delivery of in February in Phoenix, AZ. The purchase was successfully designed to coincide with the highest diesel prices in years. Soon after leaving Phoenix we were playing snowbirds at an RV resort in Palm Desert, California, which we found to be tons of fun. While there we were able to visit **John** and **Joyce Klein**, who have a really nice RV lot nearby, and made phone contract with **Phil Carpenter**, who also lives in the area. Our upcoming travel plans include a spring fling through the Southeast and a summer trip to British Columbia and the Northwest, as well as a few "local" excursions in Colorado, New Mexico (with one of our grandchildren) and Utah."

**Jaye Lunsford** reports, "After retiring from WRD, my life continues to be all about water. Husband Dan and I completed our 8-month, 3500-mile sailboat voyage through the US East Coast and Bahamas, writing about our adventures for the Annapolis Capital. With the boat back in port, we continued our travels by more conventional means, visiting northern Canada and southern California. We're currently hiding from winter in Aruba, dividing our time between scuba diving and local Carnival celebrations. Can you make sure me email, jayelunsford@gmail.com is included in the Headquarters retirees list? We expect to be back in the D.C. metro area for this spring and summer and I'd love to participate. Thanks!"

**Gail McMurtrey** writes, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter even though few names are familiar. Those retiring now probably started work about the time I retired. In December 2010 I will have been retired for as long as I worked – 31 years. It has gone by in a hurry. Next October 12 will be our 60th wedding anniversary. Our trips planned for this year are mostly family oriented. Five of them will be to various states for the blessing of 5

great-grandchildren and one to a family planned celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Keep up the excellent work keeping WRD Retirees functioning!"

**Charlie Merk** reports, "I am having a GREAT year in 2011, recovering splendidly from the October 2010 bypass surgery. The doctors' orders are to get back traveling the world again. In January, I spent a month in Thailand with the base in Bangkok. Side adventures included a 5-day cruise on the Mekong River in Southern Laos and a week in Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. In February, **Gail Kalen** (retired, Florida) and **Glenn Doonan** (Texas District) stopped by in Fort Lauderdale for a visit and boat tour of the Intracoastal. I traveled to the Cotswolds in England for the month of March, stopping over in NYC and London coming and going for theater. Based in the Cotswold, hiked the footpaths in the morning and motor toured through the Cotswolds villages and countrysides in the afternoons. That's what they do in Merry Ole England. Gail Kalen brought **Merritt Blalock** and **Mindy Lanza** (both retired, Reston) to visit in Fort Lauderdale in April."

**Jon Nowlin** reports, "**Janet** and I continue to enjoy our retirements (hers from being librarian at a local elementary school). Life is good and busy – keeping up with 4 grandchildren in an Air Force family that has migrated from the UK to Washington, D.C. to Colorado Springs; actively enjoying the outdoor recreation opportunities in all seasons along the Eastern Sierra; building a long desired large workshop for kayak construction; "kick-back" weeks at out timeshare in Kauai and volunteering for exploration and marking along the California Emigrant Trail across the Great Basin and Sierra. I've turned my research activities from hydrology to prostate cancer as I enter my 5<sup>th</sup> year of active surveillance rather than immediate treatment for this complex male disease. Some interesting journeys into current state-of-the-art medical imaging technology as well as an increasing appreciation of past WRD technical editorial standard compared to practices of most current medical journals. Best wishes to all fellow WRD retirees – especially those that experienced the merging of the Branches in the 60s, the Divisions in the last decade, and the current organizational morphing of USGS."

**Waite Osterkamp** says, "I'm trying to stay dry and out of mischief here in Tucson, but the mischief part is iffy in light of our local social and political customs. Retirement has turned out to be much more concept than reality, which mutes the mischief substantially. As an emeritus, I continue to hold down an office and computer, although I never have a clue as to what the accepted password is for the day, and neither does our security system. Manuscripts and unfinished studies, as always, dominate workdays; a couple of recent ones being lengthy journal reviews on where I think our sub discipline of biogeomorphology has been and is headed. My long-time studies along the Snake River in ID and OR are

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always fun, the latest being to propose (with archaeologist colleagues) a technique to adjust C-14 dates of riverine shells from archaeological excavations along the river. A chronology of human activity along the river has been very difficult to establish because most of the dates are from bivalve shells that give dates much too old. The problem is too much dead carbon in the Snake River water that is assimilated by the clams. In short, I'm still having lots of fun, not just with warmed-over USGS stuff, but also working with some of our non-retirees, graduate students, and donating time and effort to a local non-profit group, The Research Ranch Foundation. When does the real mischief begin?"

**Dick Paulson** writes, "**Marion** and I took an Indochina Smithsonian tour in January that took us to many places where Dick has worked intermittently since 1998. The tour began in Bangkok where the weather was balmy as we visited numerous sights and enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Chao Phraya River that flows through the center of Bangkok. The tour then went on to Siem Reap, Cambodia where we spent three days touring Angkor Wat and other temple ruins associated with the great Hindu and Buddhist civilizations that thrived there from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The tour spent the next 10 days visiting: Hanoi and Ha Long Bay in north Vietnam, Hue, Danang, and Hoi An in the Central Provinces, and Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta. At the end of the tour we headed back to Cambodia and spent 2 days in Phnom Penh where I spent a lot of his time over the years working for the Mekong River Commission (MRC), US Agency for International Development and the National Weather Service. The MRC is sponsored by the four countries of the Lower Mekong River Basin -- Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. At the conclusion of our stay in Phnom Penh we flew back to Bangkok for a night, and then made the long trek back home. We hope to get back to Asia next winter to visit Laos, and other venues so as to further enjoy the people, food, culture, and the history of Asia."

**Kathy Peter** writes, "Plans are proceeding well for the 2012 WRD Retirees Reunion in Boise which will be held September 20 -23, 2012. The reunion committee has representatives from Idaho and surrounding states: **Dan Ackerman** (ID), **Dave Appel** (WA), **John Briggs** (OR), **William Emmitt** (CO), **VaDonna McKim** (ID), **Pauline Morgan** (NV), **Ivalou O'Dell** (ID), **Kathy Peter** (ID) and **Chet Zenone** (OR and WR Regional Director). We've checked into some hotels and think the Owyhee Plaza Hotel is best for several reasons. Its downtown, allowing people to walk to restaurants, bars, and some of the local interesting sites. The cost is reasonable (\$75/room, no charge for the banquet space if we have food and beverage purchases of \$700 or more, no charge for the hospitality suites if we book 25 or more guestrooms, banquet meal about \$25 with tax and tip, free parking). It is old, but the newer facilities downtown are more expensive per room and for food and few have free

parking. The service is excellent and the food good. They have a ballroom and several smaller rooms if we need them. Now that we have the dates set and a contract with the hotel signed, we have plenty of time to work on events and activities. There have been requests for field trips to the Thousand Springs and the Birds of Prey/Peregrine Foundation. Activities around town could be touring the USGS building, the Capitol, Nature Center, the Boise basin (upper dams, foothills, lower greenbelt), and a downtown art walking tour." **All WRD Retirees please keep the 2012 reunion in mind** when making commitments for September. Boise is about 7 hours from Yellowstone National Park and 9 hours from the Oregon Coast. Early fall is a great time. The crowds are small and the weather is very good. September is one of our five driest months and day-time temperatures are usually in the high 70s. Come to Boise, you'll love it! **Details will appear in a later edition of the Newsletter.**"

**Becky Phipps** reports, "Hello retirees! Following is an update on my glamorous life. What do I do with my time? Well, I try to do as little as possible, but stay busy with volunteer work and great friends including large cat Fred and small dog Cookie. I can be spotted nearly every day walking in Shepherdstown with Cookie ("town dog") in whose reflected glory I am happy to bask. In warm weather, I continue to dig up my yard and observe what comes up from prior years. Music, travel, reading, and telling jokes are also high on my list of things to do. Visit anytime!"

**Paul Rohne** writes, "I spent most of my time in February cleaning debris from my place in Kingsland. A tornado passed through the area and demolished my fishing shed, tore off my carport, overturned my fifth wheel, tore the top out of his 500 year old live oak, and spread hackberries all over the yard."

**Barb Ryan** says, "Congratulations to everyone who works on and contributes to this Newsletter. It brings back many fond memories from my time with the Survey. I retired in October 2008 after 34 years with the USGS, and Jim and I moved to Geneva, Switzerland. I accepted a position with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as the Director of their Space Program. In addition to ensuring the broad and open exchange of satellite observations for weather forecasting, we are increasingly focusing on satellite observations for climate applications. Since WMO serves as an international body for national meteorological and hydrological services, I do get a chance to see some folks from the USGS -- mostly **Harry Lins** and **Verne Schneider**, as Hydrological Advisors to the Permanent Representative to WMO from the United States (Chief of the National Weather Service Jack Hayes). You would be proud to see how often the USGS Streamgaging Network is referenced in international discussions and deliberations - - as the crown jewel of hydrologic networks globally. Our

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son Thomas, now 23 years old, graduated last year from Brown University in Providence, RI, and is teaching biology at The Salisbury School -- a boy's high school. Let us know if your travels bring you close to Geneva -- Switzerland, not New York!"

**Stan Sauer** reports, "Greetings from Texas! I trust that as is well with all the HQ retirees. I appreciate all the work that the officers and volunteers do to prepare the Newsletter to keep us all informed as well as the other work to keep WRD Retirees strong."

**Jim Stewart** writes, "Musings from in front of the Fire. Here is a little update on the life of Jim Stewart. I don't know many of you, but I enjoy reading the newsletter. Occasionally I come across a name I am familiar or aquatinted with, and maybe that I have worked with. We all have one thing in common in this group and that is a deep love for the USGS. I was glad to be able to contribute to the USGS, but in reality it probably gave me far more than I gave it. I know that I started out as a very green employee of small value and thanks to many I grew in ways I could not have imagined. As Bearclaw Chris Lapham said in the movie Jeremiah Johnson, "You've come far pilgrim." My wife **Susie**, and our two dogs live on a 160 acre tract of land in Indiana. This quarter section was granted to a war of 1812 veteran, Alexander VanPelt in 1820. It was sold to the estate of his friend whom fought in the same war but on the other side! The brother of the former built the two story creek stone Georgian Virginia style house that we live in and have restored. We modernized the house to make it livable and somewhat energy efficient. The land here is divided by a limestone bedded stream that has a fair amount of fall. It drops from limestone shelf to shelf as it flows through the property. It is a neat hydraulics lab, and I still enjoy observing the different phenomenon as it cascades along at various levels of flow. It is a beautiful stream at all levels. The property owes it beauty to the glacial and post glacial periods that shaped it. There is a large glacial valley that the creek runs through. The valley depth is controlled by the limestone bedrock layer that is Silurian in geologic age. The side drainages have some interesting features that add to the beauty. Two hanging valleys Create mini-water falls with one having a ten-foot shear fall, the other about six feet of drop. The farm shapes my lifestyle that includes daily walks of about three miles in length along the creek. I still enjoy burning wood in the converted fireplaces that now house Joutul fireplace- style wood stoves. My winter mornings begin with watching these fires while enjoying breakfast. I follow that by sitting in front of the fire checking email and woodworking sites that I frequent on the computer. My summer hobbies include planting and improving the forested portion of the land, maintaining a fifteen acre grassland prairie that I planted. Cutting firewood for the winter has morphed over the years from hard labor to machine assisted work that I now do with a skid-steer and a midsize loader tractor. The winters are consumed

by a woodworking hobby that I love. I doubt that I will achieve the same milestones that I did at USGS, but my attempts at period furniture are starting to grow. Susie spends much of her time tending to the grandkids. We have two grandchildren and a third is on the way. Much snow and cold this winter. Cross country skiing was fun but hurts my knees and now I have broken a toe so I have slowed down. I have been slowed by a broken toe, and that is probably why I am writing this. I also am contemplating knee replacements so I might have other opportunities to write. We enjoy traveling west and usually take one mini trip out there each year. We enjoy the grandeur of the West. Still have an awful lot to see. Hope all are well, and those that are not I hope reading this will be a lift of spirits. Keep it tween the ditches."

**Bob Tortorelli** writes, "We have spent last year getting situated in a new home and had a mini family reunion in Missouri. The year before we traveled to France, Germany, California and also had a road trip to Idaho to visit grandkids. We also had a family reunion in TX."

**Lee Trotta** reports, "It's always good to see so many updates on old friends in the newsletter. Keep up the good work! Personally I became a grandpa for the first time in October of 2010 when little Gideon was born. **Beth** and I are still singing in the choir. I took on the Editor position for the Wisconsin Ground Water Association and am thankful for the contributions of great articles from colleagues (see [www.wgwa.com](http://www.wgwa.com)). It's a good opportunity for WRD retirees to rehash old projects or tune us into national issues."

**John Warren** says, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter every quarter so keep up the good work. I was looking through the WRD Retirees Newsletter several years ago and found that **Stan Leach** was living in Brandon, several miles from my house. I called him and said I would like to see him. We became friends again and got together again for bridge and went out to eat several times before he died. I like to see pictures of reunions and was happy to see **Tom** and **Marie Buchanan's** picture because I hadn't seen them since 1983. **Ray Cunningham** came down from Ocala and had lunch with us in January. Ray got my name from the WRD Retirees Directory. The Directory is valuable and is a good tool for us to keep in touch."

**CT Welborn** writes, "The Texas WRD Retirees began the New Year with a good turnout for breakfast. We had 9 members and 3 guests. Members present included **Alicia** and **Ed Ranzau**, **Helen Davidson**, **Paul Rohne**, **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **Bud** and **Beverly Anderson**, and their daughter, Deb, as well as Libby's college roommate, Evie and her husband, Frank Bame from Littleton, CO, joined the festive occasion. I learned more than I needed to know from Libby and Evie's stories about college days at Mary Washington with visits to Annapolis and Quantico. Yours truly was on the Sapphire Princess

## NEWS OF RETIREES

along with **Dixie** sailing down the west coast of Mexico. We sailed for 2 days; leaving Los Angeles arrived in Puerto Vallarta. We didn't take a tour but I wandered around the city until I found a Wal-Mart. The elevator on the ship tried to eat my cane. My cane went down between the floor and the elevator. I lost the rubber tip. I found a rubber tip at Wall-Mart and walked around the port before returning to the ship. Our cabin was a mini-Suite with a balcony and it was very nice. We then sailed to Mazatlan. Dixie can't walk much anymore and I can't either. I rented a taxi for an hour and saw interesting sites in the city. That evening we sailed to Cabo San Lucas. We went ashore in a tender and boarded a boat to take us out to see the whales. We saw some but they were some 200 yards from the boat. We left the port of Cabo San Lucas that evening and spent the next day at sea and arrived in Los Angeles the next morning. It was a good trip but I think I enjoyed the Alaskan cruise more. I think I won \$2.50 at the slots."

**Bill Wilson** writes, "Recently the USGS published Circular 1362, "Star Crossings and Stone Monuments – Field Astronomy by the Wheeler Survey in 1870s Colorado." This story of the Wheeler monuments in Colorado began in my head when Kathie and I retired to Georgetown and I noticed the notation "Astronomic Monument" on the topo map. My curiosity led me to track the monument down, and intrigued by the inscriptions carved on the sandstone block, a decade later I began a project that led to a USGS publication. The Wheeler Survey was one of four surveys mapping the West during the 1870s – civilian scientists John Wesley Powell, Ferdinand V. Hayden, and Clarence King led the other 3. The Wheeler Survey was the most ambitious; to map the country west of the 100th meridian. However, before Wheeler could complete his task, in 1879 Congress disbanded all of the surveys and created the USGS. The report describes the activities of one of Wheeler's astronomers, Dr. F. Kampf, to determine the latitude and longitude at six "main astronomic stations" in Colorado. I based the framework on Kampf's journal, which I discovered at the library archives of the University of Colorado. At each station, Kampf installed a block of sandstone on which to place his transit. He made multiple observations of the stars and used those observations to determine the coordinates of each site. I visited each of the sites to look for the monuments; in addition to Georgetown, I found two others -- Trinidad and Julesburg. Included in the report are various sidebars, including details on the methods Kampf used to determine latitude and longitude and the story of the Mormon observatory at Salt Lake City. This publication is available at: [pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1362](https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1362). You can also get one at any of the major USGS publication distribution centers."

**Kathy Wilson** reports, "Greetings to everyone. **Bill** and I are enjoying life in beautiful Wheatland, WY. We love being back in an arid climate. We are glad that the

drought seems to have lifted. Hopefully, we're just about finished with snow for this year. I have been keeping busy, between serving on the finance and United Methodist Women committees for my church and the local chapter of the Women of the Moose. I got to attend conferences in Pine Bluffs, Cheyenne, Laramie, and Estes Park, CO, this year. Unfortunately, the pain in my knee got progressively worse, so I had arthroscopic surgery on it in August. Bill had two spots of basal cell carcinoma removed from the top of his ears. He spent too much time in the sun without protection, just like USGS folks do—lesson learned. We are both recovered and doing well. In fact, we just returned from a 12-day visit to Bill's mother and siblings in Pennsylvania. We managed to fly there and back on two snow-free days! It's a challenge to fly when you have to take a concentrator and a CPAP machine along. Thank goodness for kind folks who helped us lug everything through airports. We do enjoy visiting other parts of the country, so we took our camper and two small dogs and drove through Montana, Oregon, and Washington last spring. We stayed at Ft. Lewis, WA, where we visited family. We also got to visit with friends we hadn't seen in 40 years, who kindly took us on the ferry, and gave us a tour of Seattle. We were disappointed to find that the space needle is now privately owned. From Ft. Lewis, we moved down to Portland, OR, where we attended Bill's father's military funeral. The ceremony was very moving, despite steady rain, and we enjoyed visiting with Bill's family. We were also able to visit **Jill Mulligan**, an archivist who worked with me in the Nebraska office, helping to pack up and move the basement and library from the Federal Building into our new facility. She is doing well. She gave us a brief tour of Portland and took us out for lunch. We are looking forward to several camping expeditions this year, especially one to Carlsbad Caverns in late April with our camping group. I can hardly believe it has been 5 years since I retired from the Nebraska Water Resources Center and 4 ½ years in our new home. We are still doing DIY projects around the house, which keeps us busy, too. Thanks to all who work so hard to send us the newsletter. We always enjoy hearing how our former co-workers are doing. Take care!"

**Kris Clebsch Wilson** writes, "I recently received an inquiry from Dr. Peter Dawes in Denmark regarding Dad's work in Greenland in the 50s. He's interested in any notes and maps from the time. I'm excited to be able to share this information with him. Hope all WRD Retirees are well! I do enjoy reading what's going on with Dad's buddies and those I grew up with."

**MEMORIAL**  
**John William Wark**  
**August 4, 1925 - February 3, 2011**

John William Wark passed away quietly, at the age of 85, on February 3, 2011. He was being cared for in the Hospice Unit of the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital. John was born August 4, 1925 to John Wark and Nellie Marie Sullivan Wark, in Athol, MA. John was truly one of the outstanding WRD Retirees. During his very successful career in the Water Resources Division, he was known for integrity, creativity and a willingness to help those he worked with. Many of us looked to John as a mentor and always received sage advice from him when requested. While being kind and helpful, John was at the same time mentally tough -- probably influenced by his days as a U.S. Marine. John was responsible for me working at the USGS and always kept close track of how I was doing, something I deeply appreciated. Particularly in tough times, I would talk to John and always got wonderful suggestions about which direction to follow. His pleasing personality and strong presence will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to work with him. He was a prime example of a man who made a positive contribution to society with virtually every breath he drew!



John began his professional career with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1950 in Lincoln, NE, after earning a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Utah State University. During a five-year absence from the Survey, he was an engineer with the Arizona Board of Fire Underwriters. He was a registered Professional Engineer in Arizona. He rejoined the USGS in Harrisburg, PA, where he supervised the collection and analysis of sediment and other hydrologic data in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In 1958, he was appointed Engineer-in-Charge of the Harrisburg Quality of Water Subdistrict Office. His duties included programming, design, and supervision of pioneering sedimentation studies. He was a stalwart in the Harrisburg office, creating an environment of cooperation and openness. He was successful in recruiting some of the best and brightest college students from local Universities -- many of these recruits went on to have successful careers in the USGS. Two years later, he was appointed Project Chief of the Potomac River Sediment Investigation, a part of the Corps of Engineers' comprehensive plan for development of water resources of the Potomac Basin, followed by a similar study for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. His report on Sediment Yield of Streams in the Potomac River Basin was one of the first comprehensive sediment studies, later modeled by many others. Because of his expertise in sediment investigations, he was selected to serve on a prestigious task group to advise the Quality of Water Branch Chief on the technical aspects of sediment investigations in the Water Resources Division. In 1964, John was appointed as the very first District Chief of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. This selection was made at a time when the first District Chiefs in the history of WRD were being selected and they were chosen very carefully -- a statement as to how favorably the entire Division felt about John and his abilities. Following this assignment, he was designated Assistant District Chief in California where he was responsible for programming, project design, and liaison with State and Federal agency representatives. His strong and wise leadership helped improve the California District program considerably. After five years, John was appointed Assistant Regional Hydrologist for the Western Region. He was primarily responsible for the day-to-day management and human resource utilization. The number of leaders he developed was remarkable. He retired in 1982, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Award of the Department of the Interior for his exceptional contributions through his study of sedimentation and management of water resources programs.

John served three years in WWII in the U.S. Marine Corps, ending his service as a control tower operator at El Toro, a Marine Corps Air Station, located near Irvine, CA. He always loved the Corps and his Marine training instilled a toughness in him that served him well during his WRD career. John and his wife, Marcella, remained in California following his retirement. They loved the California climate, played golf often and had easy access to their cabin in Arizona where they enjoyed fishing and other outdoor activities. John remained active in the WRD Retirees and attended all of the reunions where many of his longtime friends got to renew acquaintances. He loved to tell stories about the "good ole" days in WRD. John and Marcella also loved genealogy and traveled to Ireland to work on the family tree and the Wark DNA project.

He is survived by his sons, John G. and wife Jennifer, and David G. Wark. His first wife, Gayle Geddes Wark is deceased. He is sadly missed by his beloved wife, Marcella Freeman Wark; daughter, Sandra, and husband, Dean C. Berg, and grandson, Aaron M. Berg, as well as his nieces, nephews, their children, and cousins and friends known through his work on family history and genealogy. He will be greatly missed by his family as well as his Water Resources Division associates and many friends.

By Jim Biesecker

## **WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action**

### **Bringing Music to the Unfortunate**

**By Donald W. Spencer**

We retirees, no matter what or where we retire from, find that idle time on our hands is not always acceptable. We seem to miss the everyday grind we once had gotten used to. Many times, for whatever the reason, our peers end up in a care facility usually in one room that resembles lodging in a Motel or Hotel. This, in turn, leads to a limited amount of contact with other people outside of the facility staff and or family. Churches will provide for the spiritual needs, the facility staff provides the physical exercise, and other organizations provide transportation to and from shopping trips, etc. Many residents, however, are bound to the facility due to their infirmaries both physical and mental.

One day while playing golf with Leland Hauth (also a WRD retiree) he mentioned that he was playing Mandolin in a band that provided music at several Nursing and Residential Homes in the immediate area. My golf game was frustrating, trying to shoot better than my age, and knowing I was getting older each day, I thought that since I had once played the guitar as a pastime, I asked if I might join their fun. That was 2006 and fortunately I was able to begin playing with them. During the next five years we were making ten to fifteen gigs a month at care facilities, not including other charitable fund raising events.

After several months of playing for the residents, I commented to one of the Social Directors after our performance that I wondered if we were doing any good to entertain the residents. I had observed one little old lady was apparently asleep during the whole hour, slumped in her wheelchair and apparently oblivious to what was happening. The Director's reply was that we were definitely doing good and they, the residents, were being stimulated by our music. The next time we were there, the same little old lady was present. I made an effort to watch her. As usual she was slumped in her wheelchair and apparently still oblivious to what was happening. I was paying close attention to her during that hour. Sure enough I finally noticed that her foot was keeping time with the tempo, on the footrest, never missing a beat! I never again questioned if we were making a good impact on those unfortunate souls. I might inject here that many of the residents are dementia patients and many of the dementia cases have Alzheimer's disease. It seems that we reach them through music and they for a short time are part of the society they once knew, but were robbed from many of the societal pleasures they once enjoyed. Having recently been a caregiver, I know what the music does to alleviate some of the apprehensions of people with this horrendous disease.

Somehow I have found there is great self-satisfaction in committing to volunteering in this manner. Our band will never receive a country music award or produce a platinum record, but the look in the resident's eyes and the smiles on their faces is as great a reward as any. Perhaps our band name, "Over the Hill-Billies" is indicative of our age group. The youngest member is about sixty-five and the oldest about eighty-five. I think that as someone once said, "There but for the Grace of God go I" has more meaning for all of us since we've been doing this.

## **WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action**

**By Craig Bentley**

I have been invited to write a page on my daily activities and happenings as a WRD retiree living a carefree life in fabulous Las Vegas, NV. Actually I don't think being retired in Las Vegas is much different than being retired anywhere else—except when we have friends or relatives from out of state. Then we have to take them out to the casinos on fabulous Las Vegas Boulevard, aka “The Strip,” to give them the opportunity to contribute to the local economy.

However, for people such as I, who love to hike, southern Nevada is special. The Spring Mountain Range, with snow-capped Mount Charleston at 12,000 feet and several lesser summits are ideal for summer hiking. If one chooses to hike from the valley floor at roughly 2000 feet elevation, it would amount to a 10,000 ft climb. However, most climbers drive into the mountains to begin their hike at a higher and cooler elevation.

In winter, or “the cool season” as we prefer to call it, the Colorado River gorge below Hoover Dam and its many vertical-walled side canyons provide numerous scenic hikes. Some of the canyons have warm springs at hot-tub temperatures—a real cool season treat. To take advantage of all this glorious hiking, I joined the local chapters of both the Sierra Club and the Association of Engineering and Environmental Geologists. I have served as an officer in the two groups and have taken full advantage of hiking in both.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of my retirement was a year I spent in Gaza with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the purpose of assisting the consulting firms Metcalf & Eddy and Camp Dresser & McKee and the Palestinian Water Authority in assessing a deep carbonate aquifer underlying Gaza. It was basically a research project of published and unpublished reports of the Israeli Geological Survey(IGS) and unpublished oil test-well reports, most of which I examined at the IGS office in Jerusalem—a beautiful city. Unfortunately, the reported chloride concentrations in the aquifer ranged from 4600 to 33,000 mg/L, unsuitable for public supply. Consequently, I recommended against the drilling of a planned deep (and expensive) exploratory test well. So Gaza will continue to rely on rainfall collection and Israel for its water supply. My wife, VaDonna, accompanied me, and we spent our vacation time visiting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, the stone city of Petra in Jordan, and Cairo (including the pyramids). A train trip up the Nile Valley to Luxor and the Valley of the Kings was unforgettable.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Local meetings are very important to the future of WRD Retirees. We are pleased to include the first photo of the retirees from the Carson City, NV, area. They meet for coffee in November at the Carson Nugget.



Clockwise: Bob Bostic, Terry Katzer, Tom Eakin, Alan Preissler, Kerry Garcia, Jon Nowlin, Kim Goddard (hidden), Don Schaefer, Pat Glancy

WRD Retirees from Southern California at a recent gathering. At least they all used to work in So. California – the Singers now live in Virginia.



L to R: Julia and Steven Huff, Kay and Joe Moreland, Micki and John Singer

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Indiana WRD Retirees continue to be very active group. The photo below shows them having fun at a February lunch meeting, in spite of freezing rain!



L to R: Jeff Martin, Cheryl Silcox, and Debbie Majors (all wishing they were retired like the rest of us); Les Arihood, Jerry Davis, Lee Watson, Rick Goss, and Jim Stewart.

The Las Vegas WRD retirees also have been meeting regularly as of late. Shown below are some who were in attendance at a recent meeting at Putter's café.



L to R. Standing: Craig Bentley, Dave Bauer, and Jerry Magner (Geologic Division). Seated: Jim Daniel, Charles Morgan, Larry Eccles. Others who were at the luncheon but are not shown in the picture: Edith Bauer, Gerda Seaber, Va Donna Bentley, Marnie Magner, Ruth Daniel, and Pauline Morgan.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

WRD Retirees participated in the recent USGS SW conference in Tampa. Craig Hutchinson ran the WRD Retirees booth and described the WRD Retirees organization to the participants – working folks!



Craig Hutchinson distributes WRD retiree organization info to a future member!

The HQ WRD Retirees meet monthly from September to May. Below is a photo some of the retirees who were at the March meeting. There were about 30 retirees and spouses in attendance. Director Marcia McNutt is scheduled to talk to the HQ retirees in September 2011.



L to R: Standing: Shirley Boning, Linda Shanton, Mary Anderson and Lore Schneider (faces of Mary and Lore hidden). Seated and facing camera: George Edelen (who will soon celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday), John Shanton, Andy Anderson, Bob Schneider, and Fritz Kilpartick. Seated with back to camera: John Rapp, Mel Lew, Anna Lennox and Frank Manheim.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Denver retirees remain very active. In addition to several groups that meet monthly, they have an annual spring luncheon. The following two photos show a few of the many who attended the 2011 spring lunch.



**Bill Emmett, Rich Hawkinson and Alan Burns talking about old times at USGS.**



**Jim Bennett, Merv Petersen and Bill Wilson having some fun at the spring lunch meeting.**

The North Carolina retirees had a meeting in March. They have been meeting regularly since the fall of 2009. Their next luncheon will be in October coordinated by Gary and Nancy Garrett.



**L to R: Standing: Ron Coble, Doug Edwards, Bob Mickle, Bruce Lloyd, Nancy Garrett, Gary Garrett, Ralph Heath, Jim Turner, Don Hadley. Seated: Charles Daniel, Mary Mickle, Charlotte Lloyd, Ann beam. Photo by Myra Daniel.**

## WRD RETIREES

### Recent Retirees

**Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become new members. Please treat these new members as old friends – welcome them aboard and invite them to local meetings. Call them and ask them to become active in our wonderful organization. Thanks!**

#### Northeastern Region:

Stewart F. Clark, Jr., Hydrologist, 288 West Hill, Worcester, VT 05682, 802-223-2570 – 03/31/2011  
John K. Crawford, Hydrologist, 1115 Stonegate Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036, 717-566-5851 – 04/01/2011  
David J. Graczyk, Hydrologist, 322 Cheyenne Trail, Madison, WI 53705 – 01/01/2011  
Karl K. Lee, Hydrologist, 307 Chicago Road, Newark, Illinois 60541 – 02/28/2011  
Harry C. McWreath III, Physical Sci., 6024 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N., Arlington, VA 22203, 703-558-0308 – 03/03/2011  
Ward W. Staubitz, Hydrologist, 301 Beadle Road, Brockport, NY 14420 – 04/03/2011  
Carolyn L. Wakelee, Admin. Asst., 304 E. Declaration Court, Purcellville, VA 20132, 504-751-0473 – 01/31/2011  
Richard L. Walker, Hydro. Tech., 8 Hollow Horn Road, Erwinna, Pennsylvania 18920, 610-294-0156 – 02/02/2011

#### Southeastern Region:

James L. Pearman, Hydrologist, 346 Streamview Way, Winter Springs, FL 32708 – 01/01/2011  
Samuel R. Stafford, Hydro. Tech., 14371 Winters Chapel Rd., Apt. 618, Doraville, GA 30360 – 01/28/2011

#### Central Region:

Marvin M. Abbott, Hydrologist, 6632 NQ 111<sup>th</sup> St., Oklahoma City, OK 73162, 405-720-2230 – 03/31/2011  
Charles R. Demas, Hydrologist, 1524 Charmaine Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, 225-923-0422 – 04/01/2011  
Willie E. Easterling, Hydro. Tech., 8306 Fay Drive, St. Louis, MO 63134, 314-521-5007 – 01/31/2011  
Royce Johnson, Hydro. Tech., 14204 E. 33rd St., Tulsa, OK 74134, 918-438-1954 – 1/31/2011  
Michael L. Ross, Hydro. Tech., 8483 Cecil Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, 225-667-2096 – 02/03/2011  
Dan J. Tomaszewski, Hydrologist, 18602 Keystone Ave., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, 225-261-3243 – 03/03/2011  
Gwendolyn A. Woods, Budget Analyst, P.O. Box 1554, Lacombe, LA 70445, 985-882-3404 – 01/30/2011

#### Western Region:

James H. Eychaner, Hydrologist, 2634 Knabe Court, Carmichael, CA 95608, 916-481-7062 – 03/03/2011  
Jon G. House, Hydro. Tech., 2994 Provincial Street, Medford, OR 97504 – 01/31/2011  
Curt A. Hughes, Hydro. Tech., 14218 SE Harney, Portland, OR 97236, 503-760-7550 – 03/31/2011  
Robert H. Mariner, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 270, Menlo Park, California 94026 – 03/03/2011  
Allan C. Mlodnosky, Hydro. Tech., 36 Christensen, Ave., Salinas, CA 93906, 831-442-8523 – 01/29/2011  
James A. Nickles, Public Affairs Spec., 1420 Commons Dr., Sacramento, CA 95825, 916-550-0749 – 01/14/2011  
Kenneth M. Nolan, Hydrologist, 2935 Waverly Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306, 650-322-9023 – 04/01/2011  
Arthur F. White, Physical Sci., 5864 Florence Terrace, Oakland, CA 94611, 510-652-6904 – 04/01/2011

**A special request to the recent retirees listed above. If you have an email address, please email it to the Secretary, WRD Retirees at [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov). Thanks, this will help us stay in touch with you.**

“What’s New in Research”

By Jerad Bales, Chief Scientist, WRD

Bioufuel Feedstock Production and Water Availability

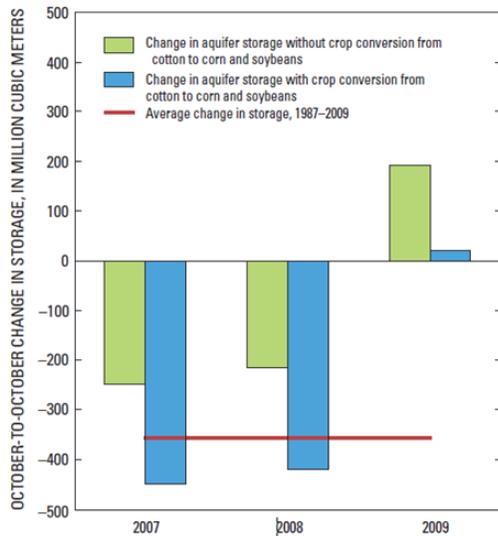


Figure 1. Change in Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer storage as a result of conversion of crops to biofuel feedstocks.

corn (fig. 1) by the conversion of cropland to corn (fig. 1). In fact, ethanol produced from irrigated corn is the most water-intensive transportation fuel, requiring about as much as 300 gal water to produce a gallon of ethanol.

A groundwater transport model was used to examine the effects of the added fertilizer required for corn production compared to cotton production (figure 2). If high corn production continues, as in 2007 – 2009, concentrations of nitrate in groundwater increase more than five-fold. These high levels of nitrate will provide a continuing source of nitrogen to adjoining streams.

The production of biofuel feedstocks and conversion of these feedstocks to biofuel can have profound effects on water resources at local to regional scales, although the manner in which a shift to biofuel feedstocks affects water availability and quality is complex, difficult to measure and predict, and varies regionally. Continued monitoring, research, and assessments are required to ensure that the potential benefits of biofuels do not outweigh the harm on water availability and quality.

For additional information:

Welch, H.L., Green, C.T., Rebich, R.A., Barlow, J.R.B., and Hicks, M.B., 2010, Unintended consequences of biofuels production—The effects of large-scale crop conversion on water quality and quantity: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2010–1229, 6 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2010/1229/>.

Green, Christopher T., and Bekins, Barbara A., 2010, Sustainability of natural attenuation of nitrate in agricultural aquifers: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2010-3077, 4 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2010/3077/>

The 2007 U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) calls for 36 billion gallons (gal) of renewable fuels in the U.S. by 2022, of which 21 billion gal is to be obtained from cellulosic ethanol or other advanced biofuels. Similarly, the European Union recently established a binding target of 10 percent biofuels for transport fuels for each member state by 2020. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the EISA will result in an additional 3.6 million acres of corn, primarily for ethanol feedstock, in 2016 than would have occurred in the absence of the Act.

Research by the Mississippi Water Science Center and the National Research Program has documented the effects of converting cotton cropland to corn production in response to the EISA and rising corn prices. Storage loss in the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer more than doubled during 2007 – 2008 as a result of increased irrigation for

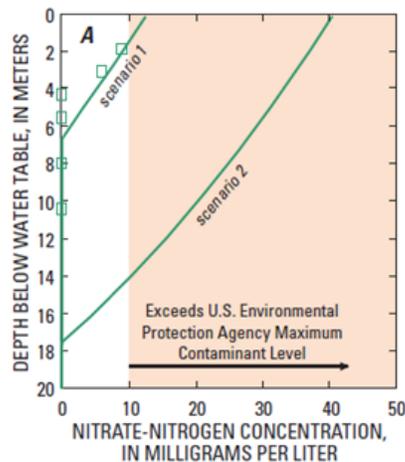


Figure 2. Measured (squares) and predicted nitrate concentration for cotton (scenario 1) and corn (scenario 2) production in the Mississippi River delta.

## A brief description of the current organization of the U. S. Geological Survey

By Jim Biesecker

My good friend Phil Emery is a thinking man. He's usually thinking about something quite interesting! Read his article "Hypothermic Landing" in the November 2008 Newsletter. Phil also thinks about the WRD Retirees Newsletter and in the past he has suggested two series that proved to be popular: Humorous WRD Fieldwork Stories and Honoring WRD Retirees who served in WW II. Therefore, I gave serious consideration to Phil's suggestion that retirees would be interested in a description of the current USGS -- Do District's still exist? What do they call subdistrict offices? Are there Regional Hydrologists?, etc. This article is an attempt to briefly describe the current organization of USGS, emphasizing the water program. USGS has undergone numerous changes since 1993, the last year Dallas Peck served as Director. Dallas' immediate successor, Gordon Eaton, established a reorganization tone that persisted until 2010 when Marcia McNutt was appointed Director and the current structure was created. Many different organizations have been tried. Director McNutt correctly thought the employees were tired of constant organizational change and it was time to settle on a meaningful organization.

**USGS in 2011:** The program of USGS is currently organized into six areas of scientific investigation, with an Associate Director leading each theme:

- **Climate and Land Use Change:** Undertakes scientific research, monitoring, remote sensing, modeling, synthesis, and forecasting to address the effects of the Nation's climate and land use change.
- **Core Science Systems:** Provides the Nation with ready access to natural science information that supports smart decisions about how to respond to natural risks and manage natural resources.
- **Ecosystems:** Conducts research and monitoring to develop and convey a fundamental understanding of ecosystems -- integrated systems of organisms interacting with their physical environments, constituting the Earth's biosphere and supporting human existence. Resilient functioning ecosystems support food webs, build soil, enhance crop pollination, purify water, cycle nutrients, and regulate the atmosphere.
- **Energy, Minerals and Environmental Health:** Conducts research and assessments on the location, quantity, and quality of mineral and energy resources, including the economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use; and conducts research on the environmental impacts of human activities that introduce chemical and pathogenic contaminants.
- **Natural Hazards:** Provides policymakers and the public with a clear understanding of natural hazards and their potential threats to society, and assists with developing smart, cost-effective strategies for achieving preparedness and resilience.
- **Water:** Society depends on fresh and reliable water supplies, as do diverse and fragile ecosystems. To understand the Nation's water resources, collects hydrologic and water-quality information and provides access to water data, publications, and maps, as well as to recent water projects and events.

This list of scientific topics was a product of some of the best minds at USGS; it makes a lot of sense and seems workable. One of the major objectives of the current organization is to create an environment that encourages interdisciplinary efforts because since 1993 there has been a persistent belief that the old Divisions did not work well together. The "new" USGS has many components in addition to the six scientific topics listed above. The organizational chart is quite complex and too detailed to be shown here. You can view one on the USGS.gov home page. It is vastly different from the Geologic, National Mapping, and Water Resources Divisions that many of us knew! Topographic maps are no longer made at USGS. In addition to Associate Directors for each of the six scientific areas, the Director's office has the following groups: Administrative and Enterprise Information, Human Capital, Budget and Planning, Communications and Publishing; and eight Regional Executives.

The Water program is overseen by the Associate Director for Water and the eight Regional Executives. The Associate Director for Water is responsible for technical aspects of the program. Management is the responsibility of the 8 Regional Executives. The following paragraph discusses the functions of the Associate Director for Water. The paragraph immediately after that discusses the role of the eight Regional Executives.

The Associate Director for Water is responsible for technical direction and quality control. What we knew as SW, GW and QW discipline specialists are assigned to the Associate Director for Water, as is the Research program. The functions of the old Water Resources Division are nearly intact (a good thing!) under the Water

organization except Toxic Hydrology is now part of Energy, Minerals and Environmental Health. Bill Werkheiser, a former District Chief, among other positions, is in charge of the Water Program. Matt Larsen, from Water Resources, another former District Chief, is in charge of Climate and Land Use Change. The Associate Director for Water does not have the same level of responsibility the Chief Hydrologist had during our working days -- administrative, human resources, fiscal, computer and publication matters are handled in separate organizations in the Director's office or by the Regional Executives. The old days of a clear line of communication and authority from the Chief Hydrologist, through the Regional Hydrologists to the Districts no longer exists.

Geographically, the USGS is divided into 8 regions: **Alaska**, **Midwest** (ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH, KY), **Northeast** (ME, NH, VT, NY, MA, RI, CT, NJ, DE, MD, PA, WV, VA), **Northwest** (WA, OR, ID), **Rocky Mountain** (MT, WY, CO, NM), **Southeast** (TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, FL, PR, VI), **South Central** (KS, MO, OK, AR, TX, LA) and **Southwest** (CA, NV, UT, AZ, HI). A Regional Executive is responsible for the management of **all** USGS programs in each of these regions. Two of the eight Regional Executives are from Water: Jess Weaver in the Southeast and Mike Shulters in the Southwest. Placing a Regional Executive in charge of **all** USGS programs is another attempt to encourage interdisciplinary activities. The downside is that Regional Executives do not have the technical background to oversee all the programs in the Region. For example, District operations, project proposals and project descriptions do not get the detailed technical review needed and similar to that which occurred when each Region had a SW, GW and QW specialists? The Regional offices and Water Science Centers no longer have reports sections – these functions are coordinated nationally. This nationwide reports system may help some of the states with a smaller and less consistent report workload but probably hinders larger districts that previously had a reports section. The Regional Hydrologist offices that existed until 1993 had about 25 full-time employees each. The offices of the new Regional Executives have, on average, about 8 full-time employees. They don't have discipline specialists assigned specifically to the Regions, there are no regional reports specialists and administrative staff is minimal. Program reviews are still conducted annually (some Water Science Centers report these are very minimal) and they cover all USGS activities in each state. Personally, I would be very frustrated working in this new organization!

What used to be called a District is now called a Water Science Center. The person in charge is called a Water Science Director -- instead of a District Chief. This is a good and logical change. Everyone in WRD certainly knew what a District Chief was but outside the organization it was not a title that was easily understood. Director, Water Science Center is certainly more definitive and conveys more authority. Regional Executives select the Water Science Directors. Even though there have been major organizational changes in headquarters and the regions, the Water Science Centers -- or as we knew them, Districts, seem to be functioning quite well. I have visited the New Jersey, Maryland, Colorado, and Pennsylvania Water Science Centers in recent years and they all seem to be quite similar to the old "District" environment. Variability in funds is still a problem but projects are directed to solving water problems and contributing to the national knowledge of the hydrologic cycle.

Because there are no longer District offices, subdistricts obviously no longer exist. Phil Emery was once the subdistrict chief in Pueblo, Colorado – he started this very productive office. That office is now called the Southeast Colorado office which is a logical description. Field offices are still called field offices.

In an attempt to get a perspective on how the new structure is functioning, I called 3 recently retired Water Science Directors to obtain their input. Obviously the structure put in place by Director McNutt has not had a long time to establish itself and the experiences expressed by the retired Water Science Directors reflect previous, although somewhat similar reorganizations. Their consensus is that the field does not get the technical and management support it did previously -- project proposals and projects descriptions don't get much, if any, technical review in many of the Regions. In fact several of the retirees admitted they quit sending project proposals to the Regional offices because of lack of interest. Discipline specialists are not as available for consultation and report preparation and administrative advice is not as directly available.

Water Science Centers are still doing a good job of solving statewide and local water problems. As in the past the Districts, now Water Science Centers, are the core of the water program. The cooperative program, despite the lack of sufficient Federal funds, is thriving. State and local governments provide much more than the 50% that was once the hallmark of the Coop Program -- State and Local funding accounts for about 70% of the funds. That is a sign of how much state and local governments support the Coop program and perhaps an indication of lack of sufficient support at the Federal level. Hopefully this new organization of USGS will be successful and will continue to evolve so the Water Science Centers receive the support they need.

The author thanks Tom Yorke and Phil Emery for very helpful reviews of this article.

## Playing The Goofy Factor

By Donovan Kelly, WRD Retiree, (élan Magazine, August 2010)

Goofy Brings Grandpaw and Grandson Closer. Really.

"We have a problem here," Elijah said. The note of concern in his four-year-old voice made me laugh, made me cry. Maybe this time I had gone too far. Maybe he really thought his Grandpaw was hopelessly goofy.

To goof or not to goof, that is the question for every grandparent, or at least for we who take our duties of grandfatherly teasing, teaching, and goofing seriously. Who better to bring adulterated silliness to grandchildren than grandfathers? What else do grandpaws have to do? Is not acting goofy better than talking endlessly about the good old days?

But there is the constant worry of going too far. The worry of becoming permanently classified as downright weird. What if grandchildren keep track of our goofiness? What if grandchildren have the same scary power as our grade school teachers to put comments into our permanent records? Can grandchildren add never-to-be-erased notes of Grandfatherly failure to go with that damning note from my first grade teacher: "Donny tells interesting stories, but he can't tie his shoelaces."?

What if Elijah has already written down, "Paw can tie his shoes now, but still can't be trusted on an elevator." Because Elijah does not allow me on an elevator by myself. It began a year ago. Elijah, his older sister Isabella and their grandma Baba had just gotten off the hotel elevator. They turned to look at me, who was taking slow, silly little old man shuffling steps across the elevator floor. And before I could get off, the elevator doors closed. I pushed the open button and was greeted by three big-eyed, open-mouthed stares.

Baba shook her head in resignation. Both kids yelled an alarmed "Paw"! Before I could resume my slow small-stepping routine, Elijah ran over, grabbed my hand and pulled me off the elevator. And he hasn't let go since, especially when elevators are near.

Go ahead, laugh at me. But how do you get your grandson to freely, spontaneously hold your hand? Yes, there is reward to my goofiness. Yesterday in a restaurant, Elijah reluctantly agreed to share his milkshake, but only for as long as he could count to two. He was already counting as he shoved the milkshake towards me. I made a big show of sticking the straw in my ear while making sucking sounds. Elijah panicked and tried to re-direct the straw to my mouth. Which is when he hollered in alarm to Baba and Isabella, "We have a problem here!"

Some might accuse me of silliness or goofiness or felonious manipulation of grandchildrenal affection. Let me respond to that. Guilty. Happily guilty.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Owen Bricker** passed away on March 23, 2011, after a long illness. Owen was part of the WRD Research Program from 1981 - 2006 and was an emeritus scientist at the time of his death. He was stationed in the Maryland District office during the end of his career. Prior to his service with the USGS, Owen was an associate professor of geology at Johns Hopkins University (1970 - 1975), Deputy Chief of the Coastal and Estuarine Group at the Maryland Geological Survey (1975 - 1979), and Director of the USEPA Toxics Program for Chesapeake Bay (1979 - 1981). He was instrumental in the effort to identify and quantify the geochemical responses to acid rain of sensitive regions of the country, establishing rigorous field studies in small catchments around the United States to measure the sources of acidification and acid-neutralizing capacity. He was unfailingly generous in offering his time and ideas to young scientists.

**David A. "Dave" Curtiss**, 71, died at his home in Boring, OR, on March 27, 2011, while under hospice care for cancer. Dave was a native Oregonian and received a BS in Chemistry from Eastern Oregon University in 1962. Following 3 years of service in the U.S. Army his initial assignment with WRD was with the QW Branch in Portland, OR, where he spent his entire WRD career. Dave was placed in charge of the Oregon laboratory in 1968 and maintained that position until the WRD Central lab was established. Dave then focused his career on planning and execution of water quality activities in the Oregon District where he was also responsible for report review. He retired from the USGS in 1994 and both he and his wife Eilene were active in WRD Retirees. He was also active in the Portland Rose Society and loved to hunt and fish. Dave is survived by his wife, Eilene; sons, Alan and Timothy; daughter, Robin; and 7 grandchildren.

**Anita Dalcero**, widow of WRD Retiree Angelo Dalcero died October 7, 2010. She continued living in Yuma after the death of her husband in 1982. Angelo retired in 1980 after starting his USGS career in Tucson in 1945. There are no known survivors.

**Elizabeth S. "Liz" Deavers**, a spirited woman of grace and beauty, joined the angels who watch over us on March 4, 2011. Liz was born December 20, 1921, in New Orleans. Always taking a "glass is half full perspective" she touched and inspired others with her positive outlook on life. She was nurturing, hardworking, and proudly independent. After 40 years of dedicated civil service, she retired from the USGS in 1992 shortly after her 70th birthday! She joined USGS in 1968 as an Administrative Clerk in the Texas District and advanced to Administrative Officer in 1974. Liz retired in 1992, living in Austin. She enjoyed planting and tending to garden flowers, took great joy in the whimsical antics of her cats and delighted in the lives of her children and grandchildren. In her younger years, she was an avid bowler. Upon retirement, she continued her life of service volunteering with Caregiver's of Austin to drive the elderly and disabled to doctor's appointments. She was also active in her neighborhood and with the Texas WRD retirees. She is survived by her sons David and Mike Hopkins and grandchildren Mike Hopkins, Jr. and Holly McManus.

**Faith J. Delaney**, 79, widow of WRD retiree Bruce M. Delaney, died on July 2, 2010 in Albuquerque, NM. She was a native of New Carlisle, Quebec, Canada. Faith was an operating room nurse at Presbyterian Hospital for 50 years. Bruce retired in 1990 after serving as a Hydrologic Technician in New Mexico for 38 years. He passed away in 1998. Faith is survived by her sons, Rex and Glen and grandchildren, Rachel, Kent, Sarah, and Guiden. She was preceded in death by her son, Duane, as well as her late husband, Bruce.

**Harold P. Guy** passed away in Carlisle, PA, on January 21, 2011, following a long struggle with cancer. He was 88. Harold graduated from Iowa State in 1947 with a BS in Civil Engineering. He earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1948 and an MS in Agricultural Engineering in 1951 from Iowa State. A U.S. Army veteran, he began his USGS career with the QW Branch in Norton, KS, in 1951, as a Hydraulic Engineer working on sedimentation processes. He continued this work in Lincoln, NE. Harold transferred to the Research program in 1956, stationed in Arlington, and then moved to Fort Collins in 1962 to research the transport and dispersion of sediment. His final assignment was in Reston to work on Urban Sedimentation. Harold retired in 1979 and worked part-time with WRD until 1985. He spent his later years at a beautiful farm home in Boiling Springs, PA. Harold is survived by his wife, Kay and two sons.

**Thelma Loeltz** died June 30, 2010. She was the widow of WRD Retiree Omar J. Loeltz who retired in 1979 and passed away in 1993. Omar's WRD career as an engineer was spent with the GW branch in Albuquerque, Carson City, and Yuma. Thelma continued to live in Arizona following Omar's death. She is survived by 3 daughters: Dottie Riley, Darlene Otero, and Kathy Loeltz and five grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Carole Nethaway** was born in Spartanburg, SC, January 17, 1947. She died at home in Reston, VA, on February 20, 2011, after a 14-month battle with ovarian cancer. A graduate of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, VA, in 1966, she married James Cox in 1969. That marriage ended in divorce. Carole started with the USGS in 1977 in Reston with WATSTORE. She then worked for the Distributed Information System until 1987, later transferring to Operations. She retired in 2003 so she could take care of her husband, Charles, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2002. She continued to care for Charles even after her diagnosis with cancer. Charles is also a WRD retiree, having served WRD as a Computer Scientist in the Colorado District, as the first WRD Regional Computer Specialist in NR, and in headquarters, ISD and the Department of Interior office of Business Systems, retiring in 2005. Carole's life centered on her family and church -- the Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax. Carole and Charles married in 1987. They had five children in their blended family. They loved to travel: Colorado, Canada, and especially all along the Atlantic seaboard. They found time almost every year to go to their favorite spot, Chincoteague, VA, site of their honeymoon and a final vacation in 2010. Carole is survived by her husband, Charles; daughter Erin Flanner; step-children, Stephanie, Erik, and Stefan Nethaway, and Alpha Morris; and 4 grandchildren.

**James E. "Jim" Rogers**, 79, of Mountain city, TX, died October 13, 2008. During his career he made substantial contributions to the hydrogeology of Louisiana. Jim was a native of Waco, TX, and received an MS in Geology from the University of Texas. In 1954, he joined the GW Branch in Minnesota and worked on projects in the Iron Range. In 1957, he married his wife, Margaret, who also was employed by the USGS in Minnesota. Margaret passed away in 2005. He transferred to the GW Branch in Alexandria, LA, in 1959, where he served as Subdistrict Chief for more than 20 years, retiring in 1985. His reports were used extensively in preparing the Geologic map of Louisiana. Jim continued living in Alexandria until 2006 when, owing to declining health, he moved to Texas to live with his son, his lone survivor.

**Susan M. "Sue" Schaffranek**, wife of WRD Retiree Ray Schaffranek, passed away on January 17, 2011, due to respiratory failure. Sue was born in Coupon, PA, on May 12, 1948, and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for three years prior to her marriage to Ray on April 19, 1969. She is survived by her husband Ray; sons, Todd and Troy; and 3 grandchildren. Sue worked in a variety of capacities including management in a number of retail stores in northern Virginia -- most recently the Flower Gallery of Manassas and Jeanette's Bridal Boutique. She retired in October 2005. She was a well respected dear friend and mentor to many co-workers. Sue loved decorating her house and being close to her grandchildren which prompted her and Ray to re-locate to Glen Allen in June 2006 after the arrival of their first granddaughter. Sue is dearly missed by family and friends for the gracious smile, kind words of advice, and loving affection she extended to all.

**Stanley A. Schumm** died April 9, 2011, after a long period of gradually declining health. He was 83 years old. Stanley was one of the giants of 20<sup>th</sup> century fluvial geomorphology, contributing important work on sediment yield, arroyos and complex response, Quaternary paleohydrology and river metamorphosis, thresholds in fluvial systems, and alluvial channel classification, among other topics. After completing his dissertation at Columbia University in 1955, Stanley was a research geologist with the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey during 1954-1967. He joined the faculty at Colorado State University in 1967. His work was recognized by numerous awards, including the 1957 Horton Award from the American Geophysical Union and selection as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is survived by his wife, Ethel; 3 children; and several grandchildren.

**Thomas Berger "Tom" Shepard** of Shrewsbury, MA, died September 7, 2010, at a nursing home where he was receiving care. He was 67. Tom worked for WRD in the Connecticut District, serving as a hydrologist and information officer, retiring in 2001. Tom was a devoted family man and always enjoyed spending time with them. He was a Christian and an active member of the Bethlehem Bible Church in West Boylston where he recently served as an offering counter. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Nancy Fouts Shepard; a son, Blake Thomas Shepard; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Robert E. "Bob" Steacy** passed away at his home in Houston, TX, on January 18, 2011, at age 95. Born in New York City, Bob graduated from the College of the City of New York with a BS in Civil Engineering. He worked for WRD for 37 years as a Hydraulic Engineer and Hydrologist and served in Tennessee, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. For a number of years he was the District Engineer in Pennsylvania and later served there as Associate District Chief, retiring in 1977. During WW II Bob was an officer in the U.S. Navy, assigned to airfield construction in the South Pacific. He also was a veteran of the Korean War. Bob was a member of the Calvary Episcopal Church in Camp Hill, PA, a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, a member of Tau Beta Pi, a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Following his retirement from the USGS he worked with Grace Associates. Bob moved to Texas in 2007 to be near his family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence. He is survived by sons, Peter and Paul; 4 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

## **A LIST OF WHAT THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE FRESHMAN CAN'T KNOW FROM FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE — THEY WEREN'T BORN YET!**

Every fall, Beloit College publishes a Mindset List to remind college lecturers — and those of us who employ workers from the emerging generation — what college freshmen can't know in any firsthand way. They were not yet born!

A few highlights for the class of 2011 (born circa 1989):

- There's never been a Berlin wall
- Humvees have always been available to the public
- Michael Keating and the Keating Five might be a boy band
- General Motors has always been working on an electric car
- Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa
- Rap music has always been mainstream
- Religious leaders have always been a force in US politics
- Eastern Airlines has never promised to “earn their wings”
- Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears and has always employed more workers than GM
- U2 has never been mistaken for a spy plane
- Stadiums, rock tours and sporting events have always had corporate sponsors
- Fox has always been a major television network
- Being a latchkey kid has never made one of them stand out
- China has always been more interested in capitalism than reeducation
- "Time" has always been the first half of Time/Warner
- MTV has never been known for music videos
- Johnny Carson has never been the king of late night
- The World Wide Web has always been available
- Food packaging has always included nutritional labeling.

## TREASURER' S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2011

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$26,577.36 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2011. Receipts for the quarter were \$7,159.62 from dues and contributions from 191 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$1,326.69. During the quarter, a total of \$792.00 in contributions was received from 55 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Cynthia Morrison, Leslie B. Laird, James M. Bettendorf, Dolores Stoner, Bob Boulger, Blendon Hammond, Della Laura, Theron Rudy Dosch, George Leavesley, Edith B. Chase, Peter E. Smith, Mrs. George " Clara " Whetstone, Stanley Sauer, Luther C. Davis, Bruce P. Hansen, Richard Engberg, Kenneth R. Taylor, Chester E. Thomas, Orville B. Lloyd, Eileen Smith, Leslie " Lee " Lenfest, John H. Lambing, Marion S. Hines, Bruce Parks, Scott N. Hamlin, Randal Dinehart, Glen Faulkner, John L. Ebling, David C. Madril, Owen O. Williams, Geraldine Stallworth, Gerald Girouard, Jon O. Nowlin, James F. Blakey, Gale McMurtrey, James F. Bailey, Russell F. Flint, Jerry Smithson, Robert L. Cory, Ren Jen Sun, Steven W. Anderson, John Hickey, Raymond Smith, Charles E. Lamb, Norman E. Schmidt, Peter Antilla, Warren Teasdale, Paul Rettman, Peter Bush, Paul D. Hayes, Edward " Bush " Boyd, Deborah Richards, and Harriet Allen.

**Did you ever wonder how you can help WRD Retirees? There is a simple way you can help that is described below!**

The mission of WRD Retirees is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency. One of the best tools to accomplish this mission is the WRD Retirees Newsletter. The Newsletter is published quarterly and is sent to retirees either by US mail or email.

The email version of the Newsletter is in full color and is received up to one month before the printed version! It is much easier for the volunteers who prepare and distribute the Newsletter to send the email version. Additionally, the email version saves WRD Retirees money because there are no printing and mailing costs.

If you are not yet one of the 800+ retirees who receive your Newsletter by email and you have an email address, please sign up for email delivery now. It's simple! Just send your email address to [jeb393@verizon.net](mailto:jeb393@verizon.net) and your name will be added to the list of retirees who receive their Newsletter by email.

Thanks for helping WRD Retirees!