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# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 171  
May 2016

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well. The most important thing in this newsletter is the registration sheet for our fall get together in Nashville, TN. I hope all of you will take the time to sign up for the reunion. It will be great to see all of you there.

I would like to express our appreciation to Celso Puenie for doing double duty as both the treasurer and editor for our retirees' organization. Another note of appreciation goes out to Andy Anderson and Tim Smith for pulling together the information related to annual dues status that was distributed electronically with the last newsletter. We have had a great response.



Dan Fitzpatrick has volunteered to undertake the editor position for our quarterly. So please join me in welcoming Dan in this new endeavor.

I don't have much new news in this newsletter. I am still hoping someone will give me some new ideas or even volunteer to help with the organization. A volunteer organization needs lots of volunteers. Please drop me an email or give me a call (303-638-3404) with any ideas you may have or if you are willing to help in any way.

**NOTE – Payment of Membership Dues:** We get a number of phone calls, emails, and letters asking about dues and where to mail them. (1) Dues are still \$10 per year, no change; (2) Widows/Widowers of deceased retirees remain as active members are not responsible for an annual dues, unless they notify us to remove them as a member; (3) Membership dues are due in January of each year; and, (4) Back dues, and future dues can be paid with the same check, plus any additional contributions, including the Scholarship Fund can be on the same check – please include a note reflecting the distribution of the amount. We want to thank the many folks who have been catching up on their back dues since the notice went out in February, plus the contributions. Checks should be addressed to: USGS Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280

**UPDATE**  
**EIGHTEENTH USGS RETIREES REUNION 2016**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

By Pete Anttila and Jerry Lowery of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)

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Your LAC is hopeful you can attend the Reunion to be held in a vibrant and visitor-friendly city and at a high-quality hotel. We look forward to welcoming you at the Reunion “Check-in” desk and providing assistance during the Reunion to make certain you have a pleasurable and memorable experience. We urge you to register early for both the Reunion and the Hutton Hotel (806-894-4609 or by emailing [groupreservations@huttonhotel.com](mailto:groupreservations@huttonhotel.com)).

**Registration Update:** Registrations are being steadily received. Almost all of the received registrations have indicated planning on attending the Grand Ole Opry performance on Tuesday, November 8, at the Ryman Auditorium. Early purchase of tickets is recommended for obtaining your preferred choice of tickets. Ticket prices obtained from the Grand Ole Opry at [www.opry.com](http://www.opry.com) or Customer Service, 800-733-6779, are as follows:

\$75— Premium seats on Main Floor and Balcony  
\$62— Main Floor and Balcony  
\$40-\$50—Main Floor and Balcony  
\$35-\$45—Main Floor and Balcony, some seats with limited view

The Grand Ole Opry limits ticket sales to 8 seats per customer. Please be advised that the Grand Ole Opry cannot guarantee the authenticity of tickets obtained from other sources.

**Hotel Registrations:** Reservation confirmations emailed from the Hutton Hotel include information that the hotel has an overnight self- parking cost of \$24 plus tax. However, please be assured that the overnight self-parking for Reunion attendees is \$18 plus tax. Should you decide to extend your stay in Nashville, we remind you that the \$209 Reunion Group Room rate is available for the two nights before and after our event, provided they are reserved before 80 percent occupancy of the hotel.

**Local Tour Information:** When you arrive at the Hotel and go to the Reunion “Check-in” desk, the Reunion Package that you receive will have information on local tours. The LAC and the hotel will be happy to answer any questions you might have about local tours.

Sightseeing tours of Nashville are offered by many vendors. An effective and efficient way to see all the events and tours available to visitors of Nashville is, believe it or not, the Internet. So, hop on board and travel to “Discover Nashville Tours” and you will be bombarded by more than 20 sites. One website lists over 50 tours available in the surrounding areas and downtown Nashville: <http://www.visitmusiccity.com/visitors/groups/sightseeingtours>

If you are looking for history, try searching “Historic Tours of Nashville”. Once again you will have plenty of websites to choose from, such as <http://www.nashvillesightseeing.com/productType/HISTORY/mpt/> offering the traditional, better-known sights of Nashville like the General Jackson, the Grand Ole Opry, and even horse drawn-carriage rides downtown.

For true history buffs, try out <http://tennesseecivilwar.com/> and take a look at some of the most famous plantations and mansions in the South.

For those that are looking for a different spin on Nashville, take a look at <http://www.nashtrash.com/> . A large pink bus takes you on a blue-collar comedy tour through downtown Nashville. Here you will discover the dirty, raunchy sides of some of Nashville’s most famous legends.

The main reason visitors come to Nashville is to listen to and see the stars of country music. Nashville’s “Homes of the Stars” tour gives visitors a chance to see the homes where these artists live. Homes of stars like Taylor Swift, Kid Rock, and Dolly Parton are just a few of the homes available for visitors to see. Simply, Google “Nashville Homes of the Stars Tours” and see over 20 websites offering tours that highlight the different areas and stars of Nashville.

**EIGHTEENTH USGS RETIREES REUNION 2016**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

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**Hotel and Transportation from airport**

The Reunion will be held at the Hutton Hotel, centrally located in Nashville's vibrant Midtown and Nashville's only four-star hotel rated by Forbes Travel Guide. The hotel features modern, yet comfortable, design with 247 guest rooms, 13,600 square feet of functional space, Fitness Center, Business Center services, Spa services, the four-star 1808 Grille Restaurant, a 7,000 square-foot Ballroom with panoramic windows overlooking downtown Nashville, eco-friendly features, and pet-friendly programs.

The Hutton's address is: 1808 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. **For Hotel Reservations:** call 866-894-4609 or by emailing [groupreservations@huttonhotel.com](mailto:groupreservations@huttonhotel.com)

A block of 80 rooms has been reserved for the Reunion at a rate of \$209 per night. If additional rooms are needed, we will request the hotel to increase the number of rooms at the \$209 rate. The hotel also made the Reunion Group Room rates available for the two nights before and after our event, provided that the rooms are reserved before 80-percent occupancy of the hotel.

Self-parking is available at the hotel at \$10 per car per day and \$18 for overnight Reunion attendees. Valet parking is available for \$32 per day, with in and out driving privileges. Valet parking for non-guests attending a day function at the hotel is \$12 per day.

Nashville International Airport is located 15 minutes from Downtown Nashville and currently served by 11 airlines with 385 daily leaving and arriving flights. It is a focus city for Southwest Airlines and a previous hub for American Airlines. The Hutton Hotel does not operate a shuttle to and from the Airport. Jarmon Transportation (615-275-1714) provides transportation to all downtown hotels, including the Hutton, at a cost of \$15 one-way and \$25 round-trip per person. The Jarmon shuttles run every 15 to 20 minutes. A Jarmon Kiosk is located at the ground level of the Airport on the left side near the doors. Ground level is one floor below baggage claim. Taxi cab service is \$25 plus tip with \$1 for each extra person. The Hutton Hotel offers free shuttle service within a 3-mile radius of the Hotel.

**Please register for the Reunion and make your hotel reservations beginning March 1, 2016.**

The Reunion registration deadline is September 30, 2016. Hotel Reservations must be made by October 7, 2016. Hotel reservations received after the deadline will be based on availability at the Hotel's prevailing rate. To register, please print, complete, and mail the form at the end of this message or print the online form at: <http://www.wrdretirees.org/Reunion2016>

Payment by check is requested and should be mailed with the completed registration form. PayPal will not be an option for payment because a three percent transaction fee is charged now with credit card payments.

**Weather and general information about Nashville**

Nashville is a great place to visit in early November, temperatures average in the low to mid 60s during the afternoon and in the low to mid 40s at night. The fall foliage colors will be near their peak. Downtown Nashville is alive during the day and evenings. Numerous restaurants, bars, honky-tonks, museums, art galleries, parks, western shops and more are available to the visitor. Sightseeing tours are offered by many vendors. A Music City Circuit offers free bus service with 75 stops. More information on local tours will be given in later Newsletters.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Sunday, November 6, 2016

#### Reunion Check-in: Noon to 6:00 p.m. (Official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 p.m.)

Information packages containing Reunion functions and more will be available at "Reunion check-in" desk between noon and 6:00 p.m. The Hospitality Room will open at 2:00 p.m. (cost is included in the Registration Fee).

#### Informal Reunion kickoff-gathering 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The event will include hors d'oeuvres and a free first drink coupon for each attendee. The cost is included in the Reunion registration fee. A cash bar will be available.

### Monday, November 7, 2016

Pre-Business Meeting Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. -- Breakfast is for all attendees with the cost included in registration fee.

Business Meeting 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. -- All attendees are invited to participate in the business meeting. An agenda for this meeting will follow at a later date. Associated costs are included in registration fee.

Information Technology (IT) Meeting 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the hotel -- This will be an open meeting for all interested attendees. Topics will include updates on NWIS and other IT related USGS issues and programs.

Gala Banquet 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Event is hosted in the beautiful Vista Ballroom of the hotel, and the event will include a cash bar, dinner, remarks by the USGS Retirees President, and an awards and recognition ceremony.

### Tuesday, November 8, 2016

#### Taste of Tennessee Whiskey, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p. m. (Optional Tour)

This taste of Tennessee Whiskey tour consists of a 200+mile bus trip and will visit three distilleries. Because tours at each distillery have size restrictions, the Whiskey Tour will be limited to the first 110 reservations (two full buses), so that the tour can be completed successfully and on time. Participants will get an opportunity to see a part of rural Central Tennessee during the prettiest season of the year. November 8 should be near the peak of fall foliage. The first stop will be at the Short Mountain Distillery in Woodbury, TN with a tour of the Distillery and tasting of its products. Short Mountain is located on Tennessee's Eastern Highland Rim and is the highest mountain between the Appalachians and the Ozarks. The Distillery is unique for employing former Moonshiners as distillers. Participants will view and learn how authentic Tennessee moonshine is made. A breakfast brunch buffet is included at the Stillhouse Restaurant on site. During the buffet the Restaurant's bar will be open for purchases of drinks. The Stillhouse's "Liquid Breakfast" Bloody Mary is outstanding. The "all you can eat" buffet will be the only meal opportunity on the tour.

The second stop is the George Dickel Distillery, located in Cascade Hollow, Tullahoma, TN, for a tour and tasting. The Distillery produces a smooth sour-mash whiskey by using the sweet water from Cascade Spring.

The last stop is at Jack Daniel's Distillery (the nation's oldest registered distillery) in Lynchburg, TN for a tour of the famous distillery. The tour takes visitors through each step of the Tennessee whiskey- making process and Jack Daniel's charcoal-mellowing process. The mostly outdoor tour involves quite a bit of walking and steps, so participants need to wear comfortable shoes. The Visitor Center includes the story of Jack's life and rare mementos. Because the Distillery is in a dry county, tasting is not offered on site. However, participants are assured of tasting a couple of Jack's sour-mash whiskies.

**Nissan Auto Plant and Fontanel Mansion, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Optional Tour)**

This tour consists of visits to two sites near Nashville and requires most of the day. Because of logistics at each site, the tour will be limited to the first 55 reservations (one full bus).

The first stop will be the Nissan Vehicle Assembly Plant in Smyrna, TN. This plant builds five-models of vehicles in a 5.4 million square-foot facility sitting on 884 acres. Vehicles are built from scratch: from stamping body parts to pre-delivery. A tram takes visitors on a fascinating tour of the plant to view all phases of auto building. After the tour, participants will load up and travel to the Fontanel Mansion where they will have lunch and tour.

The Fontanel Mansion is the former home of Barbara Mandrel and family. The Mansion is a 27,000 square feet log house built from logs shipped from the Northwest and consists of 20 rooms, 13 baths, 5 fireplaces, 2 kitchens, an indoor pool, and a shooting range. It contains memorabilia from the Mandrels plus some from the current owners and from some of the stars they manage.

**Grand Old Opry, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Optional)**

The Grand Old Opry is presented at the historic Ryman Auditorium in downtown Nashville for the winter, starting approximately November 1. The Ryman is located at 116 5th Ave. North, which is 1.2 miles from the Hutton Hotel. Unlike a typical concert, the Opry presents eight or more artists on each show, giving the audience a sample of each artist's musical style. Show times are Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., and Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Both self-guided tours and backstage tours are offered daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.opry.com](http://www.opry.com) or by calling customer service at 800-733-6779. Please be advised that The Grand Old Opry cannot guarantee the authenticity of tickets obtained through any other source.

For registrants planning on **attending the Opry on Tuesday November 8, 2016** the registration form has a line for the number in your party that will be attending that performance. You will still need to purchase your own ticket by calling their customer service phone number above and arrange for your own transportation to the auditorium. This information will be used by the Committee for planning purposes only.

For more information, contact: Pete Anttila at: [petejoycea@frontiernet.net](mailto:petejoycea@frontiernet.net)

**EIGHTEENTH USGS RETIREES REUNION 2016**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

Complete the following form, keep a copy, and mail the completed form, with check payable to "USGS Retirees Reunion 2016" to:

USGS Retirees Reunion  
c/o Peter W. Anttila  
117 Fairway Dr.  
Fairfield Glade, TN 38558

**REGISTRATION--Deadline September 30, 2016** - Refunds are available prior to the September 30 deadline.  
**Use first name(s) you want on name tag(s).**

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

<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b>	NUMBER _____ @ \$95 per person	\$ _____
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Includes costs of the Sunday evening ice-breaker reception, A Monday breakfast before the business meeting, and Hospitality Room activities for the three days.

**Sunday November 6, 2016**

Reunion Check-in Noon to 6 p.m. Hospitality Room will open at 2 p.m. Informal Reunion ice-breaker reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Hospitality Room will be closed during the reception and subsequently reopened.
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**Monday November 7**

Gala Banquet in the Vista Ballroom at the hotel, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet and subsequently reopened.
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Check your entrée choice

Salmon	Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	NUMBER _____ @ \$55 per person	\$ _____
\$75	\$75	\$75	\$55	NUMBER _____ @ \$75 per person	\$ _____

**Tuesday November 8 -- Tours**

Tours capacities are limited and will be filled based on date of registration. Refunds will be given for applications received after maximum capacities have been reached.

Taste of Tennessee Whiskey Tour, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tour includes breakfast buffet at the first distillery.		
Maximum Capacity 110	NUMBER _____ @ \$ 75 per person	\$ _____

Nissan Auto Plant and Fontanel Mansion Tour, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour includes lunch.		
Maximum Capacity 55	NUMBER _____ @ \$70 per person	\$ _____

Number _____ Planning to attend Grand Ole Opry at Ryman Auditorium, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
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<b>TOTAL (Registration, Tours, and Banquet)</b>	\$ _____
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Questions?      [usgsreunion2016@gmail.com](mailto:usgsreunion2016@gmail.com)      or call Pete Anttila 931-248-7480 (cell)

## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

### Tampa Retirees' Luncheon Tampa, FL February 26, 2016

It was shirt-sleeve/light-jacket weather for 25 USGS retirees who attended a reunion luncheon at the University of South Florida student center. Memories flew and tears were shed at the annual gathering of Tampa family members, several of whom are faithful USF alumni.



**Left to Right (Front):** Lynn Barr, Carol Horn, Evelyn & Chuck Artis, Judy Thompson & Ernie Meeder, Madalyn Wylie, Dan Duerr, Bob Wylie, Tony Buono, Terrie Lee, John Trommer, Ray Mularoni

**Left to Right (Back):** Craig Hutchinson, Helen Ramsey Rosmarie and Lewis Fletcher, Bob Ramsey, Nancy Baroud, Rick Spechler, Victor LeVesque, Yvonne Stoker, and Ben McPherson.

-Patty Metz, our most recent retiree, was the photographer.

### WRD Monthly Retirees' Breakfast St. Paul, MN April 4, 2016

From all of us in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, best wishes and warmest regards to our fellow WRD Retirees!



**From left and clockwise:** Tom Winterstein, Greg Stratton, Lan Tornes, Jeff Stoner, Al Arntson, Lois Carlson, George Carlson, Mark Have, Dave Anderson, Dave Lorenz.

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Steve W. Anderson** writes: I'm writing to let you know that Linda and I have sold our home in Charleston, OR and moved to a new home in Sublimity, OR. It's about 13 miles east of Salem and about 50 miles south of Portland. Our home in Charleston was becoming too much to maintain so we purchased a new single-level home in downtown Sublimity (population 2700). This gives me time to continue my bicycling and Linda can spend time bird watching – life is good. P.S. Please let me know if I'm behind on my dues. (*reference 'Directory Changes' article for new address*).

**Freeman L. Andrews** writes: You will find a check enclosed to catch up my dues. Please correct my mailing address in your database. (*reference 'Directory Changes' article for new address*).

**Dan Bauer** writes: Hello from Middleton, WI. I have enclosed some \$\$ to cover my retirees dues, plus a little extra as I think I may be a little delinquent in paying. I will blame it on getting older and forgetful. Since my cancer and treatments back in 2012 I am doing good. I go in for checkups every 6 months and so far have received a clean bill of health. From the cancer I have learned to appreciate life more.  
All the best, Dan

**Jim Blakey** writes: Hi Folks, Paula and I hope to see you in Nashville. Come and visit with OLD friends. We want to hear about your kids, grandkids, and great grandkids; the trips you have taken; and about the hip replacements, hearing aids, implants, etc. Remember! This is not a scientific group. It is a group of old friends that meet because they or their spouses worked for WRD! Remember the picnics and Christmas parties and going-away parties when those good friends transferred. Come and visit. We are planning to go 2 days early. More time to see those old friends.

**Bob Blazs** writes: Hi Andy, thanks for your services as Secretary. I know we appreciate the work. Thanks again.

**Pat Clark** writes: Enclosed are 3 years of dues (2014, 15, 16) plus some for the pot. This September, my husband and I spent 3+ weeks on a bus tour of the entire UK. We went from London up the east coast through Scotland, Isle of Skye, on to Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic, down through Wales, ferried to the southwest English coast, Brighton Beach, and back up to London. While we may not really want to spend as much time on a bus again, the tour actually went great. We had only 24 people (usually 44) and a tour director who was educated as an English history professor with interests in old languages (Celtic, Olde English, Erse and Gaelic). He taught for a while then has done this for 30 years. We don't think there was anything he didn't know about the UK and shared. We can hardly imagine the difference between a tour with him as leader and one in which his 20-something counterpart was leading. An added bonus, the weather actually was wonderful. We had just 2 partially rainy days. I keep busy with volunteering at a greyhound rescue shelter 2 days a week and serving on 3-4 various town committees. My sister and I go to several concerts a year in the Portland area. They have a great symphony orchestra and a lovely old performance hall. Not so much into the classical stuff but we've heard wonderful performances of music of Abba, Motown sound, Beach Boys, Elton John/Billy Joel (didn't realize how very much alike their sound is) and heard Judy Collins. We'll head out again this September for our 5th time seeing parts of the west and far southwest and then I'll enjoy seeing old friends in Nashville.

**Dave Click** writes: Celso – thanks for sending the list and date paid for dues, one tends to forget. Enclosed check should catch me up and pay ahead.

**Kent Crawford** writes: Thanks for your support of our organization. I appreciate hearing the latest from our old colleagues.

**Ernest S. Dension** writes: First off I am enclosing a check for my annual dues. My address label shows "2015". I don't know if that meant I was paid up through 2015 or that I owed for 2015 so this check should cover in either case. I have now been retired from the Survey for 31 years and often return to 'Memory Lane' to jog my memory of activities I experienced during my assignments in Utah, Alaska, Nebraska, Texas, New England, and Wyoming. Each issue of the Retirees' Newsletter is read with interest. Names of more and more

employees are unfamiliar and fewer and fewer of the old generation are still around. I feel my age when two of the employees I hired while here in Texas are now retired. Since the death of my wife (Ola) in 2011, I have maintained my home and tended my garden here in San Angelo, Texas, have visited a son in Virginia and one in New Hampshire twice, a daughter-in-law in Utah several times, and two sons and a daughter here in Texas many times. Last September I attended a reunion at Snow College in Ephraim, UT for anyone who attended the college pre-1965, fifty years ago (my first attendance was in 1945, 70 years ago). I was the oldest and earliest student of all those who attended the reunion. In January of this year I flew to Hawaii to attend the promotion of my grandson, Erick Clayson, to Major in the U.S. Air Force. I thought it appropriate that he is stationed at Hickam AFB, the site where we were brought into World War II, and the ceremony took place on the Battleship Missouri, the place where the truce was signed ending the War. Now I sit here in my home reflecting on the past, the knowledge I gained in the field of Civil Engineering at Utah State, the beautiful field trips in the Uintah Mountains in Utah, the thick ice (6.5 ft.) on the Yukon River in Alaska, the sandy streambeds in Nebraska, the salty streams in West Texas, pollution problems in New England, and blizzards of Wyoming. I am extremely blessed because of my experiences with so many hydrologists, engineers, chemists, geologists, and technicians who have touched my life. Thanks again to all who are connected with the USGS Retirees Newsletters.

**Dave Erdmann** writes: Thanks for the reminder concerning dues. Enclosed are dues for 2015-2017. I enjoy the newsletter. Keep up the good work.

**Ed Fisher** writes: Enclosed is check for 2-years of dues, plus a few dollars donations. All the best.

**Jim Gerhart** writes, "Hi to all my friends in the USGS! Nancy and I recently moved from Lancaster, PA, to Lititz, PA, and are enjoying our retired life. Nancy volunteers for a local school food program called Power Packs, and I volunteer with the Earth and Environment Department at Franklin and Marshall College, where I mentor seniors in scientific writing as they prepare their senior theses. I also serve on the Publications Committee of the Lancaster County Historical Society and have researched and written several articles for their journal. Our daughters, Becky and Jamie, have successful careers in Columbus, OH and Baltimore, MD, and our first grandchild is due this spring. Nancy and I try to get to the Baltimore office a couple of times a year for parties and retirements, and I try to keep in touch with a few good friends from my days in the USGS. Stop by and see us if you are in the central Pennsylvania area!"

**Stephen Grady** writes: Enclosed is a check for 3-years of dues. Please note my new address (*reference 'Directory Changes' article for new address*).

**Dave Grason** writes: Enclosed is my check to cover my dues for 2015-2016. Like everyone else, I really appreciate your service in keeping the retirees' group going. It's hard to believe it's been 4 years since I retired and Suzette is now officially the USGS Director, and Bill Werkheiser her associate. Although I always got along great with both of them, I'm glad I never got either of them too mad at me when I worked with them. Life in the Pacific Northwest is grand.

**John Gray** writes: Sorry for being in arrears for my dues. Here's a check for dues owed plus a contribution to the scholarship fund. Thanks for your efforts!

**Douglas Harned** writes: Dear Honorable President Kircher: It's amazing. I made a list of everything that I planned to do in retirement and after two years I still have not yet had time to start on the list. My avocation of filmmaking has become an obsession now that OPM pays me even if it isn't hydrology. Most of my films are at: <https://vimeo.com/unfilm/videos>. I run a film festival "AGU Cinema" at the Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco: <http://www.agucinema.org/>. If you have a short science video (<30 min.) that you would like to submit, please contact me. I'm a judge at the Miami Science Fiction Film Festival (MiSciFi) held in January. I'm writing a book "The Making Of" about the making of a film I never made. I took NC State University French, Literature, and French Culture courses that my professorial wife teaches. I passed, but the other students claim it was because I was the teacher's pet. We live in France from May to July. Bottled water there has nitrates of 5 mg/L or more. Drinking the wine is recommended. Back to my retirement list-- I've some things to add!

**Florence Koopman** writes: I received your newsletter and I still recognize a few names! I wanted to send you a check for dues, but I can't remember the mailing address (*Andy replied to Florence's request*). Our house in Bay St. Louis was completely demolished by Hurricane Katrina. We had sold it only a few months before – I saw pictures and cried. Glad I don't have to run from those storms anymore!

**Carl Kroll** writes: Linda and I are doing well. I am in my third retirement now: USGS/Christmas tree grower/hydroponic tomato grower. That's enough now we can afford to retire! Some of our time now is spent looking after my dad. He is almost 106 years old, mentally alert, and still lives in the house my parents built 80 years ago. Might be an indication of how long some of you may have to put up with me yet. For winter breaks and to escape the Oregon rains, we visit our sons and grand kids in Southern California. The rest of the time, we are busy keeping the homestead spruced up. Enclosed are my membership dues for the next three years.

**Katherine Lins** writes: Enclosed are the dues for Harry and myself.

**Terry Maret** writes: Enclosed is a check for past and future dues. I hope this check covers it for now, if not, please let me know. Delores and I have enjoyed our extra free time since 2014 by ramping up our gardening efforts while taking time out for outdoor adventures the Northwest has to offer. We have also traveled to various locations in Central America and Alaska, and visited our oldest daughter and her husband in Michigan. We have volunteered on occasion with the Idaho WRD office and Nature Conservancy conducting ecological assessment. Our first granddaughter was born last year in Boise so that has been a welcome experience for us. Delores is still busy doing her woodworking business and continues to make retirement plaques for USGS while I continue to teach a summer stream ecology class for Boise State University. Best wishes to all my past associates with WRD.

**Ken Markham** writes: Hard to believe I've been retired for 20 years already. No more venturing out in the rain. I'm enjoying it. A little bit of travel, a couple of cruises, one from New York City to the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and one from New Zealand to Australia. We also spend a little time in Maui most years. I've been involved with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees association (NARFE) for a few years. Something our retirees should consider joining. I enjoy getting the newsletter each quarter and appreciate the good work you do. Enclosed is my check which I hope puts me back in good standing.

**John Oberg** writes: Enclosed is a check for my 2015-2017 dues. I enjoy reading the Newsletter and still see many familiar names. After 61 years I am now a widower, having lost Joan a year ago in January and my youngest son Michael passed away last March. Now I have two sons left, Ron, a retired Air Traffic Controller who lives within 25 miles and Jim who is Director, Special Programs Division, ODC with GSA out in Lakewood, CO, where I spent some time visiting last March. However, in order to escape the heavy lake-effect snows of northern Michigan, I am presently spending the winter in DePere, WI. Consequently, I haven't touched a snow shovel this winter. Will head north sometime in April. Best wishes to everyone.

**Frank Rinella** writes: Enclosed you should find a check for dues owed up to the present year, plus a contribution to the scholarship program. I apologize again for not keeping up for the dues owed. With Regards.

**John Ritter** writes: All's right with Judy and me. Judy just had her cataracts removed and sees better. I keep busy as president of the local Friends of the Library (FOL) and as a board member of the Institute for Learning in Retirement. Our FOL newsletter won the newsletter of the year award from the Florida Library Association. Judy plays bridge as often as she can and both of us took a 2-week tour of Scotland last August. I attended the funeral of Bill Clark. I never met him, but noticed his obituary in the paper. The enclosed is from the service. Keep up the good work. Please use the enclosed check for whatever. We have lunch with the **Vanliers** about once a month. (*copy of obituary is reflected in the 'Memorials' section.*)

**Joe Rosenshein** writes: Enclosed is a check to cover my dues through 2016. If the check is not sufficient please let me know. It has been a while since I have sent anything to the newsletter. I enjoy reading the letter

and extend my thanks to those who devote their time publishing t. It has been a tough two years since my wife died. Being on dialysis has resulted in a number of trips and stays in the hospital. I will be 87 years old in April. I have used up 12 of my nine lives and am now an endangered species. Having lived in Lawrence, KS, I am a follower of the Big Twelve Conference and a Jay Hawk fan. I watch all their games. Go Jayhawks! I have been following all the debates on both sides and find this year's results unbelievable. The contest will be interesting to follow. This will probably be my last election that I will be around to vote in but vote I will. I continue to dabble in my family history. With some help, I have traced my family on all sides back to about 1750. To trace it back any further would be very difficult since last names were not used before that time. I found out that the family name on my father's side was Efron. My grandfather was adopted by his uncle and hence the name Rosenshein (Rosenschein). My father lived an interesting life when he was young. At about 15 he was forced into the Russian Army. They were loaded into box cars and were being taken to a training camp in Siberia. The guards got drunk and the draftees jumped the guards and escaped. My father was used to the outdoors having spent time at his father's lumber camps. He climbed into a tree was not found, and was able to return home. His parents sent him to the U.S. He served in the Army in WWI and went into Russia as a spy for the U.S. Army. He got out as they were about to capture him. My last bit of professional work was the authoring a book on the history of hydrogeology in the U.S. with John Moore. Almost each issue of the newsletter has a notice that another associate or friend has died. I was particularly touched to read about the death of Tommy Buchanan. We spent an interesting time together as Subdistrict Chiefs in Florida. Long life runs in my family. Family members live to be 100 years old or more. Except for my brother who was killed in action in WWII, all my sisters and my younger brother are still living. I do not expect to live up to that standard. I hope the readers will forgive my rambling. It goes with the age. I wish you all the best. Stay healthy and live your lives to the fullest.

**Al Rutledge** writes: Enclosed are dues for 2016, plus a contribution.

**Richard D. Sanchez** and his better half Teresa writes they traveled to Ecuador from February 24 thru March 17 of this year. While there they experienced a 3.9 magnitude earth tremor and the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano (see photo inserts).



After serving in the USGS Scientist Emeritus program for four years, Rick has dedicated a good part of his time to writing a book entitled *Ecuador: A Nation Living Precariously on the Pacific Ring of Fire*. As a sidelight, Rick received the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Service Medal for his research in Antarctica and in 2006 the Sanchez Peak of the Sentinel Range was named in his honor ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanchez\\_Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanchez_Peak))

**Sonja Sanders** writes: Please remove my name from your membership roster. Enclosed is a check for back dues 2013-2016. Thanks

**Pete Scott** writes: Enclosed is a check for the 2014-2016 dues. Excess should go to the scholarship fund. Still kicking. However, I am at the point in retirement where I recognize fewer names in the newsletter.

**Aubrey Shaw** writes: Please find my check for three years dues.

**Tim Smith** writes: I met with Don Cline the new Associate Director for Water at the USGS, and gave him copies of the retirees' newsletter, to give to all the Associate Directors. Don suggested that a mentoring program might be developed that would enable new USGS employees to benefit from the knowledge that retirees have gained through many years of experience. I hope something like this can be created; it would be a real benefit to the USGS. During one of our retiree luncheons, it occurred to me how beneficial it is to have speakers at these functions. Sometimes it is a USGS employee, sometimes one of us shares vacation photos, and sometimes some other speaker is found. I don't know how many other local gatherings use this idea, but I can really recommend it. To be sure, it takes work to line up speakers ahead of time, but the effort really pays off.

This time I found a NARFE item in which the NARFE president has written to the House Budget Committee requesting they omit proposals singling out the federal community in their fiscal year 2017 budget. You can find this item at:

<http://www.narfe.org/pdf/NARFE%20Letter%20to%20Budget%20Committee%20FY17.pdf>

**Don Vaupel** writes: Enclosed find dues for Carolyn and myself for 2-years, and a little extra for being late.

**Kristina (Clebsch) Wilson** writes: I'm enclosing a check for the WRD newsletter for the past 3-years. I've enjoyed reading the comings and goings of the retirees but the list of who I know is dwindling. So you don't need to send it to me any longer. I'm grateful to the late Hugh Hudson who upon my father's death (Alfred Clebsch) made me an 'honorary member'. Thanks.

## RETIREMENTS

**Donald (Don) Campbell** Chief of the Central Branch of the National Research Program (NRP) retired on December 31, 2015, after 33 years of public service. Don spent his entire USGS career at the Denver Federal Center, first with the Colorado Water Science Center, and subsequently with the NRP. Despite this, Don had a uniquely broad view of the role of the USGS in the Federal family and the broader science community, as well as a strong understanding of the Water Mission Area's entire science portfolio. Don began with the USGS as a Hydrologic Field Assistant, doing what any young adventurer would want to get paid to do: riding a horse into the wilderness to collect water samples. Over the course of the next 25 years, Don became a nationally-respected research scientist, focusing on the sources and fate of contaminants in alpine and headwater basins. Don's first USGS publication was with John Turk, and his most recent was with Jayne Belnap, which speaks both to the quality of Don's collaborations and the respect with which he is held by his science peers. In the intervening years, Don published at a rate greater than two publications per year, with a focus on nitrogen cycling, atmospheric deposition, and flow paths through small basins. Don received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 2006 for his science contributions. During 2008 - 2010, Don served as the Associate Director for Studies in the CO WSC, and joined the NRP in early 2010. Since that time, Don has re-invigorated the Central Branch, dealing effectively with a multitude of administrative and personnel issues. Don's efforts are most clearly reflected in the high-quality, collaborative, and productive Central Branch science and support staff, a legacy that will outlive Don's important science contributions. Don is no longer a young adventurer, but he and his partner in adventures, Cindy, have many things planned. We likely will see Don around the DFC occasionally, as he will retain a relationship with the USGS (either as an emeritus or volunteer). We will miss Don's leadership, insight, and good humor, but we wish him all the best in his new adventures.

**-by Jerad Bales**

**Dr. James (Jim) Constantz** retired on January 1, 2016, from the USGS NRP Western Branch. Jim started his public service with the federal government as a seasonal trail-crew laborer for Kings Canyon National Park, CA, in June 1969. He began his career with the USGS as a seasonal Soil Scientist in October 1978, and was hired on a permanent basis in July 1979. Jim became a Research Hydrologist for the NRP in 1980, and has since done innovative laboratory and field research on the influence of temperature on shallow-water transport properties and processes. He used a pore-water physics approach to characterize water infiltration, retention, and flow at Mount St. Helens post-eruption, and invented the double-cap infiltrometer to measure infiltration rates, and the submersible pressure outflow cell to measure water retention and diffusivity. At Yucca Flats within the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. Jim pioneered the use of heat as a tracer to examine stream exchanges with shallow groundwater. He has worked with Water Science Center colleagues to upgrade USGS stream gauges at prototype sites in Mississippi, Montana, and Wyoming to simultaneously gather information both on streamflow and groundwater; additional USGS streamgages are currently being upgraded in California and the Midwest. Information from stream-groundwater gages is being used by ranchers and farmers in southwestern Montana to set irrigation schedules and to conserve both water and fertilizer. These data also are used to estimate hydraulic parameters, thereby reducing uncertainty in regional groundwater models. Jim taught a NATO training course in Slovakia on stream exchanges with groundwater and the use of heat and other natural tracers for identifying hydraulic parameters at river-infiltration sites, and lectured in Canada and Australia on the coupling of stream temperature and near-stream hydrology. Jim has mentored numerous graduate students and early-career scientists from many institutes throughout his career and has long been passionate about training the next generation of scientists. He has been a highly valued leader and team member to the NRP. Please join me in thanking Jim for his service and in wishing him continued success in life and career beyond the USGS.

**-by Jerad Bales**

**Steve Fend** after more than 35 years of service, Steve retired from the USGS on January 31, 2016. Steve started with the USGS as a seasonal aid in 1980 after receiving his B.S. in entomology from San Jose State University. At that time he was working on the Convict Creek project, identifying the effects of Cu on lotic

macroinvertebrates and periphyton. Steve then left the Survey to spend time in the Peace Corps. After the Peace Corps, he returned to the U.S., earned a M.S. at San Jose State University, and returned to the USGS in 1983 as a Biologist, Field Assistant. In the early to mid-80s his research was focused on the effects of selenium on macroinvertebrates in the San Joaquin Basin, as well as the effects of arsenic on macroinvertebrates in Whitewood Creek and the Belle Fourche River, South Dakota. In the early 1990's, Steve was instrumental in establishing some of the initial macroinvertebrate sampling and processing methods and habitat assessment protocols used by the NAWQA program. Many of those methods were used for nearly two decades by NAWQA and continue to be used worldwide. Throughout his career with the USGS he has been the resident expert invertebrate taxonomist, and as such, has contributed to numerous projects including those associated with San Francisco Bay Delta programs, the Clark Fork River, Lake Coeur d'Alene, and in particular, Upper Klamath Lake. The knowledge gained through Steve's efforts and collaborations regarding the fauna of Upper Klamath Lake have been exceptional. Possibly most importantly when one thinks of legacies, Steve has shared his knowledge and pragmatic approach to the taxonomy of macroinvertebrates by training endless citizen scientists, undergraduates, graduates and USGS scientists. Over his tenure with USGS, and through substantial dedication of time, effort, and innate talent, Steve developed into a worldwide recognized expert systematist of freshwater oligochaetes (worms) and likely one of the finest ecologists the USGS has had. We will miss Steve's dedication to the goals of NRP, his love of science and his selflessness. Fortunately for all of us, he will be immediately returning in an emeritus position. Please join me in wishing Steve all the best upon his retirement.

-by Jerad Bales



**Eric J Evenson**, a native of Omaha, NE, retired in January 2016 after about 35 years of Government service. Eric graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE with a B.S. in Zoology in 1976 and an M.S. in Life Sciences in 1978. He specialized in Aquatic Ecology. Upon graduation, he worked for six months as a field biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Absecon, NJ. In 1979, he began employment with the Division of Water Resources (DWR), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). He began his water resources career in the Construction Grants Administration as an environmental specialist. Over the course of the next 11 years, Eric moved up to other positions which included Superfund Coordinator, Clean Ocean Program Coordinator, Deputy Director, and Acting Director of the DWR. During that period, Eric oversaw a number of major water initiatives at the NJDEP. A highlight of his time at the NJDEP was signing the Critical Area#1 Administrative Order in 1990, which put in place one of the most successful aquifer recovery programs in the history of the nation. Between 1990-1992, Eric worked as a Senior Project Manager for an environmental consulting firm. In 1992, Eric joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources Division (WRD) in the New Jersey District in Trenton, NJ. For the first three years, he held the position of Assistant District Chief of the Surface Water Studies and Data Networks programs. In 1995, Eric was chosen as the District Chief, New Jersey District. At that time, the District employed 105 hydrologists, hydrologic technicians, administrative, and other technical staff who served the earth science needs of New Jersey. From 2001-2008, Eric served as the Regional Program Officer for the Northeastern Region. In that position, he oversaw the program development and quality assurance functions of the 16 Northeastern Water Resources District Offices. During 2008-2015, Eric moved to the USGS WRD headquarters where he became USGS Program Coordinator for the National Water Census. In that position, he oversaw the development of the WaterSMART initiative in the USGS to develop a national water census and to evaluate water availability and use across the country. During the last year of his career, Eric oversaw the restructuring of the entire budget of the Water Mission Area of the USGS and the formulation of the Water Program Office. Eric lives with his family in Yardley, PA. **Writer's Note** – The USGS-WRD District Programs since their inception in the early 1960's, historically depended on "home grown" hydrologists (geologists, engineers, chemists) to fill technical management positions such as District Chiefs and Section Chiefs in the District Programs. Eric, who joined the USGS (from State Government) in 1992 as Assistant District Chief in New Jersey, was one of the first individuals to attain that type of position who had not come from within the

USGS ranks. He was universally recognized as having done an outstanding job in the position and was particularly effective in working with other federal agencies and other organizations. His performance and insights were seen as being instrumental in opening the door for more non-USGS managers, who today are more commonplace.

**-by Herb Freiberger**



**David 'Dave' Freiwald** has retired after 35 ½ years with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Dave was born, raised, and educated in California. Dave began working with USGS in southern California in 1980 as a groundwater hydrologist. In 1982, he relocated to the Arkansas Water Science Center [(WSC), for what he expected to be “only a few years.” From 1982 to 1986, he was a project hydrologist for the Central Midwest Regional Aquifer System Analysis (RASA) study. He later was temporarily detailed to the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology to help identify the State groundwater protection and monitoring strategy. From 1987 to 1990, he was project manager for a large USGS hazardous-waste project on Little Rock Air Force Base, AR. Between 1990 to 2001, he served as the project chief and supervisor for the Ozark Plateaus National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program study unit. The Ozark Plateaus NAWQA project involved the sampling of groundwater and surface water and performing aquatic ecological assessments to determine the status and trends in water quality. In 1996, Dave’s responsibilities began shifting towards management. From 1996 to 2007, Dave served as Assistant Director of the USGS Arkansas WSC while also being supervisor of the Hydrologic Investigations (Studies) Section. Subsequently, from 2007 to 2010, Dave served as Associate Director of the Arkansas WSC and supervisor of the Studies Section. In 2010, he became Director of the Arkansas WSC and remained in that position until 2015. In January 2015, the Arkansas WSC was combined with WSCs in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee to form the USGS Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center. Since then, Dave has been the Deputy Director for Investigative Programs. One responsibility consistent with all the supervisory positions has been the review/approval of USGS publications before they were released to the public. Even after those reports had undergone intensive internal review, it was not uncommon for Dave to provide comments that clearly improved the quality of those technical reports. One of Dave’s greatest attributes has been his down-to-earth, straightforward personality, and his dependability on both a professional and personal level. The degree of interaction he has had through the years with all surrounding staff has resulted in a relaxed, but very productive, working environment. In Arkansas, we sometimes refer to ourselves as the “USGS family.” Dave has been a central part of that family for many years and his warm personality and ability to resolve difficult situations will be sorely missed. After retirement Dave plans to ride his bike early in the mornings, play with grand-babies, and spend time on the beach with his wife Teri (and a bottle of good scotch).



**Pixie A. Hamilton**, a native of Wayne, PA (a suburb of Philadelphia) retired from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in January 2016 after a career of more than 30 years of Federal service. Pixie received a B.S. from the College of William and Mary in Environmental Sciences and an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Virginia. She began her career with the USGS in 1984 with the Virginia District in Richmond, VA. Her first assignment as a hydrologist was to develop regional groundwater-flow models in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (then the Virginia State Water Control Board) to help permit water use in southeastern Virginia. The project was relatively high profile as the area, also known as Tidewater Virginia, was the home of six of the nine largest cities in Virginia, all of which felt they deserved more water and were very interested in who got what. The groundwater flow models were very successful and later continued to be funded by a multitude of cities and counties as well as the Department of Environmental Quality. In about 1986, Pixie became a project member of the Delmarva Peninsula Pilot National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Project, which was housed in the MD-DE-DC District in Towson, MD. She was the lead author of several key reports for the Delmarva NAWQA project, including a Water Supply Paper on agricultural chemicals in groundwater and the first lay-

reader Circular produced by the NAWQA Program. In 1994, Pixie was chosen as the District Chief of Virginia and provided managerial and technical oversight for a multitude of water-resources projects addressing water availability and quality issues. A major successful priority was moving from analog to digital stream-gaging technology throughout the State. After serving as District Chief, a large part of Pixie's career focused on communication, management, and science. For about 15 years, Pixie served as Senior Hydrologist and Communications Coordinator for the USGS Office of Water Quality. Her focus was on communicating scientific findings to government, research, and interest-group partners in order to help guide water-resource management and protection strategies and policies. During that time period, Pixie also served as the USGS Co-Chair for the National Water-Quality Monitoring Council, which promoted collaboration and partnerships, and provided a national forum for coordination of consistent methods and strategies to improve water-quality monitoring, assessment and reporting. Starting in about 2010, Pixie served her last five years before retiring as the National Coordinator for the USGS Cooperative Water Program in Reston, VA, which involved oversight of jointly planned cooperative agreements addressing water issues in partnership with about 1500 localities, states, and tribes across the Nation. During her career, Pixie was the author or co-author of more than 80 publications. At least for the beginning of her retirement, she plans on residing in Richmond and doing those things that feel right at the time, such as community service, taking classes at Virginia Commonwealth University and even remodeling houses. She has had an outstanding career at the USGS and we wish her all the best in the future.

**Writer's Note** – Pixie and I have worked together and known each other for a major part of both our careers and I can honestly say that I have never known another person, male or female, who could produce more meaningful work per unit of time than Pixie. That is why I wasn't surprised when I saw that her bibliography contained more than 80 reports!

**-by Herb Freiberger**



**Dave Voelker** is retiring after 37.5 years of service to the U.S. Geological Survey. Dave has decided that although he's had a 'swell' time, it is time to hang up his waders, put down his pen, and reboot his computer for the last time. After getting his B.S. in Biology and Marine Science from East Stroudsburg University (Pennsylvania) and MS in Marine and Environmental Science from Long Island University in New York, Dave endured culture shock and started his career in the Mt. Vernon Field Office of the Illinois District. That was back in October 1978! It was there that he learned the fine art of counting clicks, dodging traffic while making bridge measurements on narrow highways, and walking on thin ice. It

was also there that he got his feet wet in learning the survey methods for collecting water-quality samples for coal hydrology and NASQAN programs. In 1982, Dave transferred to the Investigations Section in Urbana, IL, where he took the lead role for the American Bottoms ground-water study in the East St. Louis area. It was there he learned about groundwater sampling, and went on to become the project chief for a statewide groundwater-quality monitoring program in Illinois. Not one to forget his surface-water roots, Dave also served as chief of a reconnaissance study of lakes formed as the result of surface-mining activities in Area 35 of the Eastern Interior Coal Province. These opportunities also provided Dave with lead authorship on several publications. In 1987, he took on his first supervisory role as acting section chief before moving on to a 3-year assignment in what was then the Branch of Manpower (dare we even say that today?) at Headquarters in Reston, VA. While there, he visited several offices around the country while working as the Executive Secretary for the senior staff within the Water Resources Division, and was involved in programs for incentive awards, honor awards, volunteer for science, HBCU's, and other outreach programs within the Water Resources Division. Following that assignment, Dave made his final move to what was then the Indiana District Office, where he took on various supervisory roles as Studies Chief and Acting District Chief, before saying "enough is enough!" and stepping out of those roles to return to project duties – a role much better suited to him. He worked on Bridge Scour, the national SU-DuPont sulfonyleurea study, *E. coli* in the upper Wabash River Watershed, measuring ground-water levels at a Department of Justice site, Midwest Stream-Quality Assessment programs, and spent 15 years as project chief of the "Biological Assessment of the White River and Selected Tributaries in Indianapolis" studies. In his later studies he finally had the opportunity to return to

studying fish and benthic invertebrates – being a bug-picker was more fun than counting clicks, measuring groundwater, or being a rock-knocker! Having been primary author on 22 reports and coauthor of 33, Dave began to serve as the go-to guy for reports in what is now the IN-KY Water Science Center. Dave became the Center approving official, and took on the responsibilities for approving reports prior to BAO approval as well as those items that were approved at the WSC level. When word got out on his abilities in that arena, he also assisted the Illinois WSC, and served a 120-day detail as an editor with the Madison SPN, after the retirement of two of their long-term editors. In spite of all this, Dave feels his greatest accomplishments are his two sons, Nick and Sam (thanks in large part to his beautiful bride). In retirement Dave plans to prepare for Sam's wedding, spend time with family—especially his wife of 27 years, continue gardening, baking, play with his model trains, and do more volunteer work. Per Dave's wishes for minimal fanfare and drama, he plans to “quietly” leave the office on April 1 (how appropriate!) with one last “Toodles.” Until that time, you can contact Dave by phone (317-600-2789) or email ([dvoelker@usgs.gov](mailto:dvoelker@usgs.gov)); after his retirement he can be reached by email at [dtsnag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtsnag@sbcglobal.net)



**William G. “Bill” Wilber**, son of a military family, who was born in Northern Virginia, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in January 2016 after 38 years of service. Bill graduated from Rutgers University, NJ, with a B.S. in 1973, an M.S. in 1976 and a PhD in 1978, all in the sciences of water chemistry, statistics and water-quality modeling of streams. Bill began his career with the USGS in the Indiana District in Indianapolis, IN in 1978. His first assignment involved water-quality modeling of small streams in Indiana. In 1980-1982, he served as Chief, Hydrologic Investigations Section and also as Water-Quality Specialist for the Indiana District. Later in 1982, Bill transferred to Reston, VA, to become a Staff

Assistant to then Director of the USGS, Dallas Peck. He remained in that position for two years in which he provided water-quality technical advice on a variety of issues of national importance. In 1984, he moved to the USGS Water Resources Division (WRD) headquarters, also in Reston, to become a Staff scientist for the Office of Water Quality. There, he was involved with the design and coordination of the Department of Interior's Irrigation Drainage Program with the responsibility for determining the extent of selenium contamination associated with irrigation drainage in the waters of the western part of the country. In 1986-1991, Bill became involved with the surface-water component of a new USGS initiative, the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Pilot Program. Key design goals of NAWQA included defining current water-quality conditions across the nation, how conditions changed with time and, to the extent possible, providing explanations for understanding differences in water-quality in both space and time. From 1991-2015, Bill continued to be heavily involved with the NAWQA Program, first as a Coordinator of a National Synthesis Component that focused on pesticides, nutrients, volatile organic compounds and stream ecology. In 2004-2011, Bill served as Assistant Chief of the NAWQA Program and was responsible for providing technical oversight of the entire program. From 2011 until 2015 when he retired, he served as Chief, NAWQA Program responsible for the technical direction, budget, staffing, external coordination and release of information from the NAWQA Program. Bill had an outstanding 38-year career with the USGS, which is further evidenced by his reception of all three honor awards that the Department of Interior has to offer—the Superior Service, Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards. Bill, along with his wife, Kathy, resides in Reston, VA.

**Writer's note** – Bill will always be remembered as one of the key staff members of the original NAWQA Program. The program itself is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of existence and considered to be a huge success. A major part of that success, and maybe the most important one, was that someone heavily scrutinized the project plans of all the nationwide study units to make sure that all data collected in those units were done using similar collection and analysis protocols. Bill took the lead in this ultra-important aspect of the program and made sure data collected and analyzed for any part of the country was comparable to any other part.

**-by Herb Freiberger**

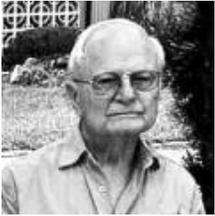


**Richard 'Rick' Wilson** has decided to retire on March 31, 2016, after more than 14 years of leading hydrologic investigations with the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center. Rick's outstanding career has spanned multiple agencies and time in the private sector. Rick earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska. From 1983 through 2000 Rick advanced through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, spending a lot of time in floodplain management, hazardous- and toxic- waste cleanups, and leading disaster relief efforts. He completed his Corps of Engineers career managing the Northwestern Division Business Development, FUSRAP and the NWD Support for Others Programs. Rick began his career with the USGS in May 2002, with the Nebraska District, Water Resources Division, Lincoln, NE, as Chief of Hydrologic Investigations and culminating as Deputy Director, USGS Nebraska Water Science Center. His career as a supervisory hydrologist and engineer has spanned a wide breadth of subjects, including: water-quality studies, hydrographic surveying, hydrologic modeling, geophysics, and water-use studies. He was the driving force behind program development in the USGS. Of particular merit, Rick participated in developing international programs in the Mekong River Basin Forecast Mekong - Delta Research and Global Observation Network (DRAGON) and the NASA Lower Mekong Research project. Overall, Rick has authored or co-authored 13 USGS publications during his career. Rick was the recipient of many awards during his career including the USGS Superior Service and the Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Commander's Award for Civilian Service, 2000 Awards. He demonstrated his leadership over many years with multiple Federal, state, and tribal agencies on Missouri River Recovery Programs and several years on multiple committees supporting the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan. His knowledge of Missouri River issues has gained international interest. His willingness to mentor and train project chiefs in the course of their studies has typified Rick's career. He has shared those leadership characteristics with many service organizations, clubs and professional organizations. Rick will be greatly missed by his colleagues in Nebraska and the Midwest Region. Rick plans to stay in the Lincoln, Nebraska area and join the private workforce.

## MEMORIALS



**David R. (Dave) Bedford, 41**, passed away on March 15, 2016 in Pacifica, CA from a brain tumor that was discovered 18 months ago. He was born on January 31, 1974 at the U.S. Air Force Academy to Ralph (Yvette) Bedford (Wichita, KS) and Susan Walsh (Colorado Springs, CO). He graduated from Rampart High School and Colorado State University and received his PHD from the University of Colorado. Dave loved his work as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, CA. He married Shivani Ganguly on January 16, 2014. Dave was a brilliant scientist, and a kind and gentle soul. His loving family, friends, and colleagues will miss him. Dave is survived by his parents and stepfather; wife Shivani; two sisters; two nieces; and, many dear friends, aunts, cousins and pets, Hannah and Monster. We will carry you in our hearts forever. A Memorial Services was held on April 2, 2016 at the U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA.



**William E. 'Bill' Clark, 91**, passed away January 30, 2016, peacefully in his sleep in Gainesville, FL. Bill was born to the late Evans and Myrtis Clark, March 6, 1924 in Arran (Wakulla County), FL. Bill served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1946 as a radio and Morse code specialist during WWII. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1949 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Bill spent his career working in several districts in the area of ground-water. He worked and retired as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. Bill liked to work outdoors with plants, and loved hiking and jogging, logging many miles on area trails. Bill is survived by three nieces and one nephew. He will be greatly missed by his family and good friends, Chic Hinton, Richard Vance and many others. A memorial service was held on March 5, 2016 at the Trinity United Methodist Church Prayer Chapel, Gainesville, FL. Burial will be at Woodland Cemetery in Havana, FL at a later date.

**Mary E. (Conway) DeBuchananne (widow of George D. DeBuchananne, Jr.)** passed away on November 4, 2015 in Silver Spring, MD. Pre-deceased by spouse George D. DeBuchananne Jr. and son George D. DeBuchananne III (Vera), Mary is survived by daughters Jean (Alfred) Hurst and Marilyn (Robert) Innis, sons Jon C, James A, David A (Caroline), and Daniel F (Agnes) DeBuchananne, 16 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Mary was a graduate of the University of Iowa, a long-time member of Ikebana International, and was an accomplished pianist and potter. Friends were received Saturday, November 7, 2016, at the Innis home. Interment was private.



**Maria E. (Betty) Fitzpatrick, 72, (wife of retiree Dan Fitzpatrick)** passed away November 3, 2015, after a brief illness at the Grant Medical Center in Columbus, OH. Betty was born on November 14, 1942, in Santa Maria Ixhuatan, Guatemala, Central America. She married Dan on July 17, 1976 in Guatemala City while Dan was in the Peace Corps. Betty was an avid writer and loved all animals, especially her rescue cats. She is survived by her husband Dan, two daughters, four grandchildren, and three sisters. A funeral mass was held at St. Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church in Hilliard, OH.



**Richard 'Rick' Hutchinson, 81**, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, surrounded by family. Rick was born on May 20, 1934, in the back of a car in Columbus, Ohio. He attended Columbus West High School, where he met his future wife, Barbara Williams. They were married on Sept. 15, 1956. They both attended Ohio State University, and Rick graduated in 1957 with a bachelor's degree. He was very proud of his education, and always enjoyed a good game of pool, often saying that was how he paid for his education. Rick was drafted into the Army. After his service to our country, he began working for the government as a geologist/hydrologist. As a result of his employment, they lived in many places. Upon retirement, Rick enjoyed working with computers, investing, and teaching others. He is

survived by his wife Barbara, their three sons, and seven special grandchildren. A special thank you to all the wonderful staff at Hanson Cottage located on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Ministries. Cremation has taken place and a private service was held at a later time.

**Gregg C. Lusby, 91**, passed away on January 4, 2016 in Wheat Ridge, CO. Gregg was born December 6, 1925, in Casper, WY to Clarence and Frances Lusby. His parents drove to Casper from their farm "for the event" as Gregg phrased it, and he was born at his grandparent's home in Casper. His family lived on the homestead farm on the North Platte River in Natrona County, Wyoming until Gregg was school age at which time they moved to Casper so that he could receive a better education. As was the custom during those heroic times, Gregg told a small fib about his age to enlist in the Navy during World War II and was trained as a pilot when the war ended and he retired from the Navy. After the Navy, Gregg moved back to Wyoming and received a Bachelor's Degree in Hydrological Engineering from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY. He supported himself by playing jazz trumpet in the local "spot" and gained notoriety. He met Glenellyn Hile in college and they were married. The family then moved to Colorado so Gregg could pursue his career as a Hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. Gregg and Glenellyn were married for 21 years. Gregg was employed at the Denver Federal Center for nearly 40 years. Gregg met Meredith through the choir at their church. They became good friends and eventually fell in love and married in 1980. The two families merged happily and have become very entwined in Gregg's, Meredith's, and each other's lives. All of the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren loved Gregg. Gregg loved playing guitar and singing. He sang bass in the church choir for many years and occasionally played trumpet as well. Gregg also loved wood working, traveling and driving. He and Meredith have shared some very extraordinary trips together, like "peas in a pod". Gregg and Meredith were married for 35 years. Gregg is survived by his wife Meredith; three children, three step-children; eight grandchildren; and, three great-grandchildren. Gregg is missed greatly because he touched many souls with his gentle and kind spirit. Services were held on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO.



**Harry G. Rodis, 88**, passed away on January 11, 2016, in Altamonte Springs, FL, surrounded by his loved ones who had gathered from around the country and Canada to be by his side. Harry, the son of Greek immigrants, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and attended both Pittsburgh public schools and Greek private school in his youth. He thus grew up bilingual, speaking and writing modern Greek along with English; these language skills served him well in his many future world travels. Future international assignments would also allow him to develop a working knowledge of Arabic and Portuguese. Harry graduated from high school in 1945 and was inducted into the Army Air Corps near the end of WWII. Following completion of military service he enrolled in University of Pittsburgh, and earned a degree in geology. Harry met and married his wife Lois in Pittsburgh, and they moved to Alaska to begin married life as Harry accepted his first professional job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1953. Early on while working in Alaska he met D. J. ("Ceedie") Cedarstrom who at that time was working in Alaska with the Ground Water Branch, Water Resources Division (WRD), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Harry then accepted an opening and began his lifelong career with the WRD. His initial assignment was in Alaska, then he moved to the Minnesota WRD District for about 4 years. Harry then entered the WRD International Hydrology program for long-term residential assignments in the Sudan and then Brazil – a period of some 8-9 years of international work prior to moving to the Florida WRD District in the early 1970's. His first several years in Florida were with the Miami Subdistrict until 1975; then he made his final USGS move to accept the position of Assistant Chief, Orlando Subdistrict where he remained until retirement in 1989. Harry and Lois raised 4 children while living and working in various parts of the world. The two older children were born in separate U.S. states; the younger two were born in two different foreign countries. The Rodis family always took full advantage of opportunities to visit many interesting parts of the world by living and working in foreign countries. Harry was known to say that he and Lois had a plan to see the world and have a large family; both objectives were well attained. Those who worked with Harry in WRD over the years knew him as a valued professional and personal friend whom you could always count on to perform all duties promptly, accurately, and with a contagious smile, always a

valued asset to office productivity and morale. In retirement Harry worked many years as a civic volunteer; initially with the Orlando Science Center. Then with Wekiva Springs State Park, and the Sweetwater Oaks Home Owners Association – giving generously and unselfishly of his years of accumulated knowledge and abilities. In retirement he also exercised regularly: hiking, riding bikes and visiting gyms on essentially a daily basis right up to the time of his passing. Harry was also an enthusiastic and talented photographer, particularly in black-and-white who found time to keep the dark room at his home busy; he also collected old cameras. Harry enjoyed life and enhanced it for others; Godspeed Harry!

**Keith V. Slack, 91**, passed away peacefully on January 3, 2016, holding hands with Helen, his best friend and wife of 52 years. Keith was born on May 20, 1924 in Louisville, KY to James Warren Slack and Emily Louise (Knecht) Slack. He had a life-long interest in science and nature, and a love of the outdoors and of animals. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II as a weather observer during the Aleutian Islands Campaign, Keith attended college beginning in 1946 at the University of Kentucky where he received Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees Phi Beta Kappa in zoology, with honors and distinction. A talented and dedicated student, he continued his studies at Indiana University where he earned a Ph.D. in 1953 with a major in zoology (limnology) and minors in geology and botany. After graduation, Keith began a storied career as a U.S. government scientist. He initially worked for the U.S. Navy as an oceanographer; he was assigned an eclectic array of responsibilities ranging from the rather mundane preparation of marine biology reports to assisting in classified military minesweeper defense efforts locating and disarming hazardous ordinance. Before long Keith decided that he would be happier and safer on land, and in 1960 began working for the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C. He continued to work for the U.S. Geological Survey until his retirement in 1990, capping a career studded with awards for his meritorious and distinguished service. It was in Washington, D.C. in 1960 that Keith met the girl who would become his wife, life-partner and constant companion Helen Louise Emerson. Helen and Keith moved to Palo Alto, CA, in 1964 where they resided, in the same family home, for over 50 years. Keith was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Family and friends knew him as a sweet, quiet, humble man who was loved by all who had the good fortune to meet him. Keith is survived by his wife Helen Louise (Emerson) Slack, two sons and two daughters, six grandchildren, and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, grand-dogs and friends.

**Peter H. Stauffer, 81**, passed away on March 10, 2016 in Palo Alto, CA. Peter had been courageously fighting brain cancer for just over one year, and he died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. Peter was born in Venezuela, in 1935, and lived in Switzerland until he was about 10 years old. In 1945, his family moved to Palo Alto, CA, and Peter graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1953. He served briefly in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reserves from 1958 to 1962. Peter earned a Ph.D. in geology from Stanford in 1965. After earning his degree, he taught sedimentology at the University of Malaysia from August of 1965 until May of 1983. Tektites were a particular interest and specialty of Peter's. While teaching, he met his spouse Madeline, and they had two daughters. Peter thoroughly enjoyed the culture and people of Malaysia. In 1983, Peter and his family returned to Palo Alto to be near his aging father, and in that same year he began his distinguished career with the USGS. Peter began working as a geologic text editor, a profession to which he brought extraordinary talent and quiet humility. During the 1990s, Peter served as the Associate Western Regional Geologist under Bill Normark. Peter initiated and coordinated the first Volunteer Appreciation Day, a celebration for USGS volunteers, and worked on many outreach projects. Following reorganization, he returned to the publications group. Peter's love for editing was apparent to all the authors with whom he worked—his subtle but wise comments on manuscripts and figures made them glow—as well as to his fellow editors, for whom he was a guiding light as a scholar and mentor. Peter is survived by his wife Madeline, his daughters, and his two brothers. A memorial service was held on April 16, 2016, at the U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA.



**Barbara E. Stocker, 58**, passed on December 8, 2015, at her home in Mt. View, CA. Barbara was born on March 19, 1957, in Glendale, CA to the union of Ronald Q. and Mary A. Stocker and arrived in Oxnard in 1962, where she would live until she was a young adult. She attended Curren, Sierra Linda, Fremont and Oxnard High School, graduating in 1975. While still in high school, she began her 40-year career as a civil servant, starting with the Dept. of Defense and finishing up with the U.S. Geological Survey. She retired in January 2015. Barbara's biggest passion was helping others and she would stop at nothing to do so. She was always eager to help in any way possible and could always be counted on.

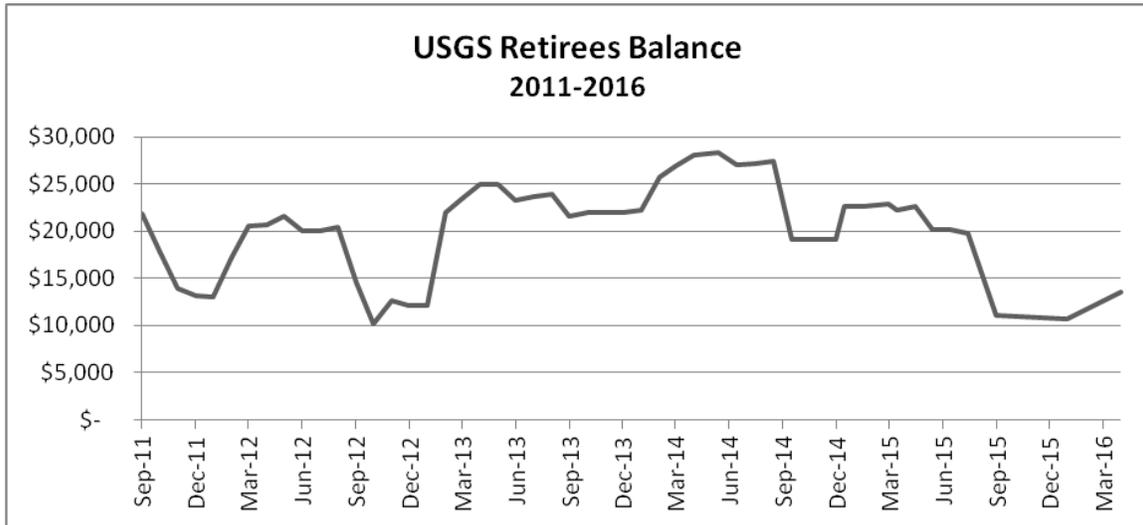
Her other joys were her beloved cats, the San Francisco 49ers, traveling and cheering for her brothers, nieces and nephews, whether at a sporting event, dance recital, or any other activity they participated in. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. She is survived by her two brothers, two nephews, a niece, and several great nieces. A celebration her life was held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Reardon Funeral Home, Oxnard, CA.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2016

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$13,487.02 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2016. Receipts for the quarter were \$3,498.29 from dues and contributions from 112 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$752.36, including the cost for the printing of the USGS Retirees Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$782.00 in contributions above dues was received from 44 members.

### Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:

Tim Rowe, Cathy Hill, Peter Martin, Mrs. Wayne Hammond, Don Vaupel, Derrill J. Cowing, Daisie M. Oden, Steve Van Denburgh, David E. Click, Gary Turney, Mrs. Scott 'Lessie; Runner, Stan Sauer, Marion S. Hines, Pat Clark, Pete Scott, Florence K. Koopman, John R. Gray, Dennis J. Kent, Chet R. Thomas, Vincent C. Lai, Luis Santiago-Rivera, John P. Monis, Larry McGreevy, Allen Noehre, Mrs. Norman 'Beverly J.' King, Marjorie S. Reid, Robert C. Ugland, Russ Wagner, Stephen Blanchard, Terry Maret, Ken L. Markham, Cheryl M. Music, Robert W. Wylie, Joe Rosenshein, Carl G. Kroll, Frank Rinella, Al Rutledge, Barbara K. Kerans, Bob Knutilla, Ron Hanson, Skip Schmidt, Jeff Stoner, Doug Bedinger, Ernest S. Denison, and Paul D. Hayes.



## NEW MEMBERS

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**Taylor, William (09) (Sharon)** 55 Highlands Dr., Port Angeles, WA 98362, 509-675-2989 – add, phone, and  
'wife' name  
**Yeager-Thornberg (03) (Ruth)** – remove 'Thornberg' from last name, reflect **only Yeager** – name change