

# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 169  
November 2015

*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

Welcome to the USGS Retirees! The new name is based on the poll of members conducted earlier in 2015, and the majority vote of the responses. This change enables us to invite all disciplines of the USGS to join us, and help bring us new blood to offset the erosion of time. For starters, you can find the key officials of all USGS disciplines at [http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/organized/key\\_officials.asp](http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/organized/key_officials.asp), and a USGS enrollment form for new members at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8FZ9WSEG7a2RHJ5ZEZxcFRDTXc/view?usp=sharing>. My guess is that retirees from the old GD and NMD may wish to continue their own organizations, and that the membership will evolve slowly as time goes on. You will find the newsletter of the GD Retirees on our web site at <http://wrdreirees.org/>. The idea is to enable such evolution to occur. The 2016 Nashville reunion is organized as the USGS Retirees, so let's see who comes.

This is my last message as president, and it is time to vote for officers for the 2016-2017 term. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a ballot, and I urge you to vote expeditiously so that we can continue our good work. Like other past presidents, I will probably still be involved somehow.

You will also find a description of the 2015 scholarship winners, and in the supplement their write-ups. This is another token of our work to pass the torch on to those who will be the future of the USGS.

Please be patient as we struggle to implement the change in places like the newsletter and web site. For now it seems wise to continue the email as [wrdreirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrdreirees2014@gmail.com), and the web site as <http://wrdreirees.org>. The members are accustomed to using this nomenclature, and gradual change seems prudent.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you as president. My hope is that we will continue to evolve in positive ways, and mesh with the USGS as it marches into the future.



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NARFE Ensures Misguided G Fund Proposal is rejected by Congress

#### National Officers:

Ethan t. (Tim) Smith, President  
Alberto (Al) Condes, Vice President  
Clarence (Andy) Anderson, Secretary  
Celso Puente, Treasurer  
Richard (Dick) Enberg, Archivist

#### Regional Directors:

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Jeffrey (Jeff) T. Armbruster, Southeast  
C.R. (Bob) Burchett, Central  
E. James (Jim) Crompton, Western

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**Eighteenth Retirees Reunion 2016**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**Sunday, November 6 – Tuesday Nov 8, 2016**  
**By Pete Anttila, Local Arrangements Committee Chair**

The next biennial Retirees' Reunion is less than a year from now. The Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) actively has been in the search and plan process to make the Reunion a memorable and enjoyable event. As reported in the August Newsletter, the official Registration Form with information on venue, transportation, events, and tours will be in the February Newsletter.

When Nashville was selected for the Reunion, quite a few Retirees expressed their desire to attend a Grand Ole Opry performance. We are pleased to inform you that the Opry will hold a performance on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and, best of all, at the historic Ryman Auditorium ("The Mother Church of Country Music"). Information on making reservations for this performance will be in the February Newsletter.

To accommodate the opportunity to attend the Opry, we have scheduled the Gala Banquet for Monday evening. We hope holding the Banquet on the second day of the Reunion doesn't affect attendance to it. The Banquet provides the best opportunity for Retirees, spouses, partners, and friends to socialize and enjoy a delicious meal. Maximum attendance to the Banquet is vital to the success of our Reunions. In recent years quality hotels require a minimum food and beverage expenditure from groups, especially, when they provide free meeting rooms and lower room rates. To avoid a deficit, we need to meet the Hutton Hotel's minimum.

The Reunion will begin with registration, starting at 12:00 p.m. and an evening Kick-Off Reception on Sunday. On Monday morning we will have a continental breakfast followed by the Business Meeting. An IT Meeting will follow the Business Meeting and continue into the afternoon, if needed. For most attendees, Monday afternoon is open to explore Nashville. Information on short local tours will be provided in subsequent Newsletters so that attendees can make reservations for a local tour in advance. As stated previously, the Banquet will be in the evening. On Tuesday attendees have the option of going on one of two of the following tours: "Taste of Tennessee Whiskey" or "Nissan Auto Plant and Fontanel Mansion". Tour reservations will be part of the Registration Form. Early registration is recommended because these tours have limited capacities. A hospitality Room will be open from 2:00 to 11:00 p.m. each day except during the Kick-Off Reception and Gala Banquet hours.

The schedule is tight with no dull moments. If you're like me, you might want to stay 1 or 2 days longer so you can see and do more in Nashville. By registering early at the hotel, you should be able to get the same room rate.

**"Y'ALL" mark your calendars and join us for fun in Nashville,**

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



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

## ELECTION OF USGS RETIREES OFFICERS: 2016 - 2017 BIENNIUM

It is election time. The slate of candidates, selected by the Board of Directors, is shown below with a brief biographical sketch for each.

**President, James “Jim” Kircher:** Jim retired June 3, 2015, with more than 38 years of Federal service. Jim began his career with the USGS in 1974, working for the Wyoming District during summers and breaks while pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University (CSU). He received an M.S. in Civil Engineering from CSU in 1979. In 1985 he assumed his first supervisory position as chief liaison for publication and computer programs for all water programs in Colorado. In 1987, Jim returned to his USGS roots in Wyoming where he served as the Wyoming District Chief for the next 4 years. In 1996 he relocated back to Denver to serve as the Associate Regional Hydrologist for the Central Region. Jim became Chief of the Colorado District in 2004. Jim continues to be a key person in the WRD Retirees Scholarship Program. Jim and his spouse, Mick, reside in Littleton, CO.

**Vice President, Alberto “Al” Condes:** Al began his career with WRD as a streamgager in Arizona. After a 4-year leave of absence to serve as a lieutenant in the US Air Force, he returned to the AZ District to work in construction, special studies, and then as Subdistrict Chief in Yuma. Al moved to Headquarters and worked as Contracts Coordinator and then as Chief of the Operations Branch. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Arizona and a recipient of the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award. Al and his wife, Mary, reside in Fairfax, VA.

**Secretary, Clarence W. “Andy” Anderson:** Andy started his career with WRD, in Washington, DC in 1962, as a Hydraulic Engineering Technician. He was hired to make complete engineering drawings of all WRD equipment utilized in the field, according to military standards, and which could be used to contract out to the open market. In the mid 1980’s Andy was named WRD Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, performing safety inspections of District and field Offices, laboratories, storage areas, and selected vehicles, until he retired in January 1995. Andy and his wife, Mary, a USGS retiree, reside in Herndon, VA.

**Treasurer, Celso Puente:** Celso began his WRD career in 1966 as a Hydro Tech in San Antonio, TX. He converted to a Hydrologist in 1972. From 1976-80 he served as the Project Chief of the Warrior Coal Field Hydrologic Study in AL. From 1981-86, Celso was Assistant District Chief and Hydrologic Studies Section Chief of WV. Celso transferred to HQ in Reston and served as the WRD Staff Hydrologist for Reports from 1986-2001 and as Acting Chief of Environmental Affairs from 2001-2005. Celso retired in 2005 and currently lives with his wife, Maria, in Herndon, VA.

**Archivist, Richard A. “Dick” Engberg:** Dick Engberg retired in 1999. He started with WRD in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1962 as a Physical Science Aid while attending the University of Nebraska. In 1965, he was rated as a chemist. He remained in the Nebraska until 1986 when he became District Chief, Iowa. In 1990, he was selected as Manager, National Irrigation Water Quality Program. Since retirement, he has worked part-time for the American Water Resources Association. He received the Distinguished Service Award and resides in Sterling, VA with his wife, Lynne, also a retired USGS employee.

**Northeastern Region, Sharon Goss:** Sharon began her WRD career in 1975 in Indianapolis as an Editorial Assistant. In 1981, she became the Administrative Officer for the IN District. In 1986, she transferred to the PA District as the AO, and in 1993, she transferred to Denver as the CO District AO. Sharon chose early retirement in 1999. Since her retirement, she has held a variety of jobs in the educational and social work fields. She also volunteers for several community organizations. She has served as the Indiana contact for WRD Retirees. She and her husband, Rick, also a WRD retiree, live in Sullivan, IN.

**Southeastern Region, Jeffrey “Jeff” T. Armbruster:** Jeff’s USGS-WRD career included assignments in Columbia, SC (1964-71); Miami, FL ('71-'73); Champaign, IL ('73-'74); Harrisburg, PA ('74-'79); Augusta, ME; Atlanta, GA; and Reston, VA. He was Subdistrict Chief in Maine from 1979-81; District Chief of the GA District from '81-'90; and the SE Region’s Coordinator for the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program from '90-'99. His final assignment was on the Director’s Staff in Reston from 2000-2001. He received the Superior Service Award (1985) and the Meritorious Service Award (1989). Jeff and his wife, Laurel, live in Norcross, GA.

**Central Region, C. R. “Bob” Burchett:** Bob began his career in the Marion, VA Subdistrict in 1963. Bob worked as a streamgager until 1966 when he transferred to Nashville, TN to work in the Studies Section on Limestone Hydrology projects. In 1976, Bob was selected as Chief of the Nashville Field Office, which was later upgraded to a Subdistrict. In 1982, Bob was named Chief of the San Antonio, TX Subdistrict and stayed in that position until he was selected as District Chief for OK in 1986. In 1989, Bob was picked as District Chief, TX. In 1991, Bob was named as Area Hydrologist of the "Great Southwest Area." Bob was then selected as the Central Region Program Officer in 1996. He retired in 1999. He lives in Austin, TX.

**Western Region, E. James “Jim” Crompton:** Jim is a graduate of Michigan Technological University and the University of Arizona. He began his career with the USGS in Nashville, TN. He was then transferred to the Indiana District for 8 years and finished his career in Carson City, NV. Since retiring in 2013, Jim has been spending his time as an international mountain bike referee at races in North and South America. When Jim is not traveling, he volunteers at Tahoe Rim Trail Association as a crew leader, Carson-Tahoe Hospital and at the Carson School District. When not at bike races or volunteering, Jim is hiking and camping in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere.

**ELECTION OF WRD RETIREES OFFICERS: 2016 - 2017 BIENNIUM**

**BALLOT**

Vote for one person for each National office and a Regional Director in **your** Region. Vote for either the nominee shown or another Retiree whose name you must enter in the blank space to the right of the nominee. Complete the ballot by placing an "X" in the parentheses to the right of that candidate. Print your name and provide your signature. Mail your completed Election Ballot to:

**Secretary, WRD Retirees  
P.O. Box 280  
Herndon, VA 20172-0280**

Your ballot must be received by December 28, 2015. A brief biographical sketch for each nominee appears on pages 3-4 of this Newsletter.

|   |     | <b>Write-in Candidate(s)</b> |
|---|-----|------------------------------|
| President: <b>James "Jim" Kircher</b>         | ( ) | _____ ( )                    |
| Vice President: <b>Alberto "Al" Condes</b>    | ( ) | _____ ( )                    |
| Secretary: <b>Clarence W. "Andy" Anderson</b> | ( ) | _____ ( )                    |
| Treasurer: <b>Celso Puente</b>                | ( ) | _____ ( )                    |
| Archivist: <b>Richard "Dick" Engberg</b>      | ( ) | _____ ( )                    |

Regional Director: **Note** -- vote **only** for a candidate in **your** Region

|  |     |           |
|--|-----|-----------|
| Northeastern: <b>Sharon Goss</b>               | ( ) | _____ ( ) |
| Southeastern: <b>Jeffrey "Jeff" Armbruster</b> | ( ) | _____ ( ) |
| Central: <b>C.R. "Bob" Burchett</b>            | ( ) | _____ ( ) |
| Western: <b>E. James "Jim" Crompton</b>        | ( ) | _____ ( ) |

Members Name: (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Members Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Pete Anttila** wrote: Joyce and I are enjoying good health with just a few aches and pains. Except for a 2 weeks trip to New England in May, we have remained in Tennessee after our April return from 4 months in Florida. We will be returning to Florida the first of December for another 4 months. We are renting for the third year in succession a condominium at Indian Shores on the Gulf Coast. The trip to New England included a week on the Cape Cod Coast in Dennis Port, attendance at Pete's 50<sup>th</sup> college reunion, 5 days in Ogunquit, ME, and 2 days with one of Pete's high school friends in Connecticut. The 50th Reunion at Tufts was very enjoyable. The alumni from the class of 1965 received VIP treatment and "Tufts Night at the Pops" was terrific. Boston Symphony Hall was filled to capacity with Tufts alumni, 2015 graduates, and families and friends. In Maine we enjoyed a nice lunch with Derrill and Mary Jean Cowing in Gardner, ME and a visit to their home in Monmouth, ME. Lastly, we are keeping busy working on the Local Activities Committee for next year's Retirees Reunion. We thoroughly enjoy working with the other members of the committee and their not so successful efforts yet to teach this Yankee to be more Southern.

**Ann Grossman** wrote: I have today received your newsletter 168, and write to inform you that, sadly, my dear husband **Irving 'Butch' G. Grossman (retired 1986)**, passed away on July 18, 2015. Please follow customary procedures following notice of his death. Also, since I expect to see his name (and, picture, if you have it) in your next newsletter in the Memorials section, I would ask that you send me a copy to share with my family. My deepest appreciation for your time-consuming volunteer work in getting the WRD Newsletter to members. I know that Butch was always eager to receive it. Thank you again.

**Bill Harenberg** wrote: Attached is a check for dues. I noticed the box in the May newsletter about paying dues and was going to check my records to see if I owed money; finally did it. Things are going well. I've had a few minor health problems but nothing major. Jean has aches and pains too. I still work with the Boy Scouts. Several years ago we started a Venturing Crew for youth 14 to 21, either sex. Three of our granddaughters are members so that makes me happy. Their mother always wanted to be a Boy Scout instead of a Girl Scout because the boys did more fun things, so she gets to enjoy it vicariously. I occasionally get out and do some field work, mostly with wells these days although I did make one discharge measurement last year.

**Art Horowitz** wrote: I remember when I first starting working for the USGS back in 1978 in the old NWQL in Atlanta when labs were located in both Denver and Atlanta. All the old timers (or insert whatever descriptor you think appropriate) stood around the back of the building complaining about the fact that the USGS and the WRD had changed so much that it didn't even come close to resembling the organization they had joined 'X' number of years ago, and I used to tell them that they didn't know how well off they really were. Now, some 37 years later as an emeritus scientist I'm still talking to people in the back of the building but now I'm saying that the organization bears no resemblance to the one I joined back in 1978. I guess some things just never change, except that change is inevitable, and that change isn't necessarily bad! However, in the last few months two e-mails came through the organization that really made me wonder if there hasn't been too much change. The first e-mail came through just around the time that the OPM servers were breached and some millions of names and their associated PII were hacked out of the system. I suspect that many of us are now dealing with and will continue to deal with the fallout from that particular incident. The e-mail that ensued stated that the mission of the agency was no longer paramount, or at least was now on a par with the need for cyber security. I never thought a science agency like the USGS would ever make that kind of statement to its employees. It certainly appears as if the tail is wagging the dog. The tool (computers) that was supposed to make our jobs easier and more effective has now become a means unto itself. The second e-mail came out a few weeks ago, and once again struck me as something I never would have dreamed of seeing coming from the Director's Office of the USGS. It concerned the need for maintaining scientific integrity, and required all current employees, contractors, and volunteers to take a one hour on-line course in the subject. I couldn't make up my mind whether to laugh or feel insulted. I'm still not sure, but am leaning more and more on the side of being insulted. I find it hard to believe that the supposed group of reasonably intelligent individuals that are now running the USGS even felt the need for this requirement, let alone imply that they think integrity is something you can actually teach. The USGS has always prided itself on generating sound and objective scientific information and interpretations for use in making sound policy decisions. If we lose our reputation for scientific integrity we will have lost our ability to perform our function. In all my years of working with the USGS I was aware of only two breaches of scientific integrity and they were dealt with quickly and internally.

**Walton Low and Marion Fisher** wrote: Marion and I are currently spending our 4th summer in our Bethel, Maine home. We spend our winters in Las Cruces, New Mexico (the state north of the border), moving there from Reston. Our recent adventures included a cruise through the Alaskan and Canadian Inland Passage (a must do) in May 2014 and a stay at Marco Island Florida in May 2015. In Bethel, we are busy packing up our stuff as we have sold our Bethel home. Our plans are to rent for a few months at different places around the US. My FEMA deployments have allowed me to stay in different US cities and really become familiar with their culture and activities, including Hartford, Minneapolis,

Little Rock, Oklahoma City, Austin, Queens, Baton Rouge. Marion has stayed busy attending to her parent's estate, finally selling their home this summer. She also stays up with our Las Cruces home owners' association business. We got a chuckle regarding the survey results in which water science articles did not rank as high as retirees news, but we guess that is inevitable the longer we are retired. We also prefer news about other retirees, even the mundane. It is always nice to know we all are alive and kicking and learn how others are spending their time and energy. Articles about how data were collected then and now or past adventures in data collection are amusing and bring back fond memories.

**Jim Nicholas** wrote: I am enjoying a lull between projects for my part-time business, nicholas-h2o. I've had several projects with Great Lakes agencies/organizations, working with many of the same people with whom I interacted while with USGS: Council of Great Lakes Governors, Council of Great Lakes Industries, Great Lakes Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and National Wildlife Federation. Typically I am the only scientist on the project team, so people think I know what I'm talking about. Consulting has been mostly fun, but a deadline last fall kept me from making the trip to Maine. I missed seeing everyone and the fall colors. I still hate deadlines. Otherwise, I am taking care of things around our home while Bonnie still works full-time. We're making frequent trips to the family cottage on Lake Michigan and to the Chicago area to see our granddaughter and our new twin grandsons. They are a joy to visit, but we do need to rest when we return home. Our daughter is expecting her first child in February, so we'll be adding some trips to South Dakota next year.

**Kay Patten** wrote: This is to let you know that my husband Eugene 'Gene' P. Patten, passed away on July 12, 2015 at the Reston Hospital. We both have enjoyed the WRD newsletter over the years, periodically recognizing familiar names.

**Gerald 'Jerry' Ryan** wrote: Well, guilt has finally led me to the keyboard. After reading the latest newsletter, I figure it is time to send an update on life after retirement for the Ryans. Time has flown by since retiring in 2007. Susan and I seem to have grown roots in Raleigh, NC after having lived in four other states during my career with USGS. Our four daughters are scattered across the country (ok, two countries) in Calgary AB, Portland OR, Indianapolis, IN and Raleigh NC. My daughter in Calgary had triplets almost five years ago so we have made frequent trips out west and north to see family and grandchildren. We are looking forward to taking them to Disney World this fall right after our third daughter's wedding. It'll be three weddings down and one to go! Susan retired about 2 years ago, and we seem to be traveling more and more since then. I have developed a passion for Irish music and have coordinated Raleigh's Irish Music Festival each fall for the past four years. It's October 3<sup>rd</sup>, this year, come join us! May you and your loved ones all have safe travels, good health, and good friends!

**Jack Rosenau** wrote: My wife, Jean, had been flying with me for years and had become a very proficient communicator-navigator. She surprised me one evening by announcing her registration to take an FAA in-flight regulations course, one of several prerequisites to earning a Private Pilot License. Jean passed the examination and hired the teacher to be her flight instructor. Without divulging her intentions to anyone, she proceeded to become a pilot, and on 30 July 1988 she flew our Piper Cherokee solo at the age of 66 years old. A few years later, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and the next day Jean was diagnosed as a victim of Alzheimer's disease, and I her caretaker. The next twelve years passed quickly. I enjoyed caring for my Jean; she was never a problem, but in spite of her weight loss, I could not keep her safely motivated and finally had to give her care to my son and wife, Bob and April, for another two years until her passing on 24 September 2007. My own health problems, some long postponed, now began. Knee operations on both knees completed in 2008 followed by a major surprise – Macular Degeneration of my eyes. Left eye had deteriorated to only peripheral vision. Right eye blind; after three months and four chemical injections, limited vision suddenly returned. Eight years of treatment, every eight weeks special chemical injection into the eye followed by limited vision until the next injection. Left eye seems to be permanently peripheral vision. For one that has had a lifetime of excellent vision, this problem hit hard. Loss of driving cars, aircraft and just walking has not made being 95 any easier. I wish you all good health and happiness.

**Judy D. Fretwell Thompson** wrote: Enclosed is the check for \$20 to cover 2 years dues. I've sold my place in Wisconsin and am now a fulltime resident of Treasure Island, Florida. It's beautiful here where I sit watching the dolphins play as I work. On our way home from the reunion in Maine, my partner Ernie Meeder, and I stopped in Rochester, New York to research a book we are working on. We photographed 37 years' worth of letters in that week and an additional two weeks in May. So far we have transcribed letters from 1872 - 1877 (*only 32 years to go*) and have 12 chapters of the book in various stages of development. We've had a busy year traveling; in addition to the reunion, we made our final trip between Wisconsin and Florida, visited Eric's son in Fort Collins, Colorado, and my daughters in Charlotte, North Carolina and Cape Coral, Florida. We also spent a week in New Mexico just relaxing and discovering. We enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones in Portland and I look forward to Nashville next year.

**Lee Trotta** wrote: Beth and I have been enjoying our summer in Wisconsin. Sheboygan has one of the most beautiful beaches in the world right here on Lake Michigan. We recently vacationed at central Wisconsin's world-class natural wonders and fun centers -- Wisconsin Dells and Devils Lake.

**Ken Vanzandt** wrote: Please apply this check to any past and current dues. Use the rest as you need. I enjoy reading the newsletter and look forward to the next issue.

**Cathy Jones-Waggoner** wrote: Hello USGS Retirees – I am enclosing my check for two years, 2015 and 2016. Everything will be great once I have my hip replacement done. Changing doctors a week before my surgery was scheduled doesn't help either. You almost have to hire a full-time consultant to figure out which way is the best way. I have some great doctors out here in Washington but wish they all had same techniques. I've changed from Shelton to Gig Harbor to another doctor in Gig Harbor. I'll find out with my new doctor on September 1<sup>st</sup> if I'm a candidate for the anterior procedure, as I do not want the posterior procedure if I can help it. I've heard of a new procedure called Super Path (same day in and out) but decided this was not for me. I do have a friend who is having this done in November and hope she does well with it. They keep coming up with new techniques and its hard keeping up. Its heck getting old is all I've got to say. It's supposed to be our golden years, golden years for the doctors that is. On the other hand, it has been absolutely beautiful weather here in Washington State, but now we're having a drought because of it. I hope this next winter our mountains will be snow packed to help replenish the rivers and lakes before we dry up like California. I'm now involved with Federally Employed Women's (FEW) group here in the Tacoma area. They want me to chair the Legislative committee and once I'm up and running around, I will be excited to take on this new adventure in my life. I still stay involved with my friends from Oklahoma for FEW and American Business Women's Assoc. (ABWA) but taking on a whole new adventure in my life for FEW makes me feel I'm back to work again. It's one way of learning what new bills have been passed and what bills are struggling to get passed. Well take care everyone and glad we're all still alive and kicking. Tomorrow is never promised, so today I want all of my friends and family to know how thankful I am that all of you are in my life.

**Ken Wahl** wrote: Enclosed is a check for dues for 2014 and 2015 for the WRD Retirees' newsletter.

**Ed Weeks** wrote: Enclosed is a check for my dues for CY2014, CY2015 and CY2016, plus a little extra to keep up the good work. I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease soon after my retirement in 2012. However, between L-Dopa and an exercise regimen, I am coping well.

**Clarence (CT) Welborn** wrote: Thanks to all who are responsible for editing and sending the newsletter. I recognize fewer and fewer names as each issue is read. Is it because I'm getting older? The thirty plus years since retirement have been good to me. Ola passed away four years ago and since then I have been busy caring for my home and yard, plus numerous trips to see my kids and grandkids. As a matter of fact, I just returned after a two-week jaunt to Utah and New Hampshire. In September, I attended a reunion for anyone attending Snow College (in my home town of Ephraim, Utah) prior to 1965, 50 years ago (I first attended Snow in 1945, 70 years ago.) I was the oldest and earliest attender there. I returned home for a day to repack my bags and mow the lawn prior to heading to Danville, NH to visit my son, Roger, and family. Now I am home with my feet propped up waiting for the 'travel bug' to bite me again. Thanks again for keeping us posted.

**Kris (Clebsch) Wilson** wrote: I'm sure I owe a couple of years of dues for receiving the WRD retirees' newsletter. Please let me know how much and I'll send you a check. That being said, this will be the last year I will be an honorary member. Hugh Hudson wonderfully paid dues for the first year in honor of my Dad, Alfred Clebsch. Thanks and hope all is well.

### 41st Annual USGS National Photographic Competition and Exhibitions

Present, past, and **retired employees** of the USGS and their immediate families are eligible to participate. Photographs are due Friday, **December 4, 2015**. For details, see <http://water.usgs.gov/camera/>.

## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

### MN - WRD Retirees' Gathering July 28, 2015



**Left to Right:** Jim Stark, Jeff Stoner (Standing), Mark Have, and Jim Ruhl cooling off after golf on a hot Minnesota summer day.

### WRD Retirees' Luncheon St. Paul, MN October 5, 2015



**Left to Right:** Greg Stratton, Al Arntson, Mark Have, Greg Mitton, Charlie Cornelius, Dave Anderson Jr., Lois Carlson, George Carlson. Charlie Smith came later so was not in picture.

**WRD Retirees' Fall Luncheon  
USGS RETIREES (Spouses and Guest)  
RALEIGH, NC  
OCTOBER 22, 2015**



Front Row (L-R): Nancy Williams, Mickey Reed, Charlotte Lloyd, Bruce Lloyd  
Second Row (L-R): Gary Garrett, Nancy Garrett, Doug Harned, Charles Daniel, Rose Pinnix,  
Ron Coble, Shirley Lea  
Bob Meikle, Mary Meikle and Jerry Ryan attended the luncheon, but had to leave before the picture was taken.

**TEXAS WRD RETIREES NEWSLETTER  
August 19, 2015**

Only 4 came to the meeting. Those present were: president, Bob Burchett, sec-treasurer, Clarence Welborn, members, Jack Rawson and Freeman Andrews. Bob opened the meeting by wishing everyone a good morning or maybe good afternoon depending on when we started talking. He said that he had just returned from Nashville where he met with the 2016 planning commission for our National Reunion. They arranged for the hotel and trips. The information will be in the February newsletter. The reunion will be held on a Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. This was done to get a cheaper hotel rate, \$209 per night. That's cheaper than the rate of \$400 per night for the other time. Freeman said that he was glad to be here and that he went to Colorado to be at the graduation of his granddaughter from high school and to visit his son and family. He said that he was going to give up tennis unless he gets a new boy. He also said that he and Della celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He said that's all he had to say. Jack's son and daughter gave him and their mother, Velma Jane, a trip to Niagara Falls this past June. Velma was her dynamic self and she ran all over Niagara Falls area and waited on him, taking him different places and bringing him food. They really had a ball. When they got back to Austin, Velma Jane, developed a fever and a rash on her chest and back. She went to her doctor and over a couple of weeks, they ran all kinds of tests, and in turned out that she had developed lymphoma, a very fast acting type. Velma Jane passed away in August. We send our

sincere sympathy to Jack and his family. CT said that he hadn't gone anywhere or done anything other than the usual, playing bridge, eating out, and reading a lot. He goes to his wife's home most weekends. Our next meeting will be the fourth Wednesday Sept. 23, 2015.

**TEXAS WRD RETIREES NEWSLETTER**  
**September 23, 2015**

A sad turn out for our September meeting, Only 2 members and guest were present. Those that made it through the high winds, ice, and snow were: CT Welborn, Paul Rohne and his friend, Ree. They chatted and had a good meal. CT and his daughter, Beverly, made a 2-week trip to Wyoming to visit another daughter, Frances, who is working in Yellowstone National Park. On the way they stopped in many national parks and also went to Idaho to see CT's granddaughter and great-grandson. Jesse was out on a fire line as that's his job. From there, they went on to Wyoming for a 4 day visit with Frances. They toured Yellowstone National Park. On the way back they visited more national parks. CT said that it was good trip but long. If he is able to get around, he will make the trip again next year. That's all there is.

**Luna B. Leopold 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**October 8, 2015**

For those interested, both these websites contain articles about Luna's contributions to water resource management.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/post/luna-leopold-visionary-water-resource-management/>

USGS, Science Feature – Top Story

[http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs\\_top\\_story/lessons-learned-from-a-legend-luna-leopolds-view-of-the-river/](http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/lessons-learned-from-a-legend-luna-leopolds-view-of-the-river/)

**USGS Texas Water Science Center is 100 Years Old!**

On September 1, 1915 the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division established a District office in Austin, TX to address water resources needs.

A Centennial celebration will be held on November 13, 2015 at the Texas Water Science Center, Austin, TX. The celebration include a facility tour; luncheon; a presentation by Robert L. Joseph (Science Center Director) on the History of USGS and Texas Water Science Center; other guest speakers; and, a session with work stories shared by WRD retirees.

**HUMOR**

**Multiplying Adders**

Two puff adders got married, and wanted to start a family. So, they went to see the wise old owl, who gave them advice:

"Build a bed out of logs, and everything will be fine."

They did so, and soon there were many little adders slithering about.

Which only goes to show the truth of the old saying, "With a log table, even adders can multiply.

Or you may remember it as  $\log(ab) = \log(a) + \log(b)$ .

**Thanks to Dick Engberg for this one...**

## 2015 -- HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Tim Smith

The WRD Retirees organization awarded two scholarships this year. Since the program began in 2006, our organization has awarded 16 scholarships, not including the two awarded this year. The number who eventually become career USGS employees is about 50 percent.

Our five person selection team this year included Warren Teasdale, Bill Emmett, Merilee and Jim Bennett, and Jim Kircher. Past members were Bob Boulger, Jim Blakey, and Jerry Duncan. This is a great contribution by WRD Retirees! We have awarded \$47,000 in all.



**Keith E. Mecum**, is currently pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Texas, San Antonio, TX.

Presentation was made to Keith by Michael Nyman, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, Southwest Region, San Antonio, TX.



**Devin S. Minnich**, is currently pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences and is attending the University of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

Presentation was made to Devin by Anthony Guerriero, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, Pacific Region, Santa Cruz, CA.

## History of the WRD Retirees Scholarship Program

### NL132 (August): 2006 Winner:

**Jacob B. Dayley** of **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix, Arizona. Jacob had a 2006 summer internship with the California Water Science Center. An official ceremony was held at GateWay Community College. The award was **\$1500**.

### NL136 (August) 2007 Winner:

This year's winner was **Gretchen Anderson** of **Vermilion Community College**. An official presentation ceremony was held at the Tulsa, Oklahoma field office, where Gretchen participated as a summer intern. The award was **\$1500**.

### NL140 (August) 2008 Winner:

**Claire Bunch** a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix and a USGS summer intern in the Sacramento office was the winner. Claire received a plaque and **\$1500** check.

### NL 144 (August) 2009 Winners:

**First place** winner of a **\$1500** scholarship was **Lisa Ashmore**, a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix, AZ, who interned this summer in the Montana WSC.

**Second place** winner of a **\$1000** scholarship was **LaShawn Nohrenberg** who attended **Vermillion Community College** in Ely, MN. She was a summer intern in the Nebraska WSC.

### NL148 (August) 2010 Winners:

**First place, \$3000:** **Travis L. Gibson**, a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix was a summer intern in the Salt Lake City, Utah WRD office.

**Second place, \$2000:** **Michael Blumberg**, a student from **Vermilion Community College** in Ely, MN interned in the Richmond, VA office.

### NL153 (November) 2011 Winners:

**Casey P. Lovato**, was the winner of a **\$4000** scholarship. Casey was a student at **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix and was a summer intern at the Oregon Water Science Center.

**Brandon Clark** won a **\$2000** scholarship. He was a student at **Western Dakota Technical Institute** in Rapid City, SD. Brandon was an intern at the South Carolina Water Science Center in Columbia.

**Jeffery S. Sallas**, won a **\$2000** scholarship and was a student at **GateWay Community College**. Jeff was an intern at the Sullivan's Island, SC office and was presented his award during a ceremony at the SC Water Science Center arranged by SC Water Center Director **Eric Strom**, and **Gary Tasker** represented WRD Retirees.

**Michael Buil**, won a **\$2000** scholarship. He was a student at **GateWay Community College** and interned at the Massachusetts Water Science Center. Michael received his award during a ceremony at the MA Water Science Center arranged by **Wayne Sonntag**, MA Water Science Center Director, and WRD retiree **Forest Lyford** represented WRD Retirees.

### NL157 (November) 2012 Winners:

**Timothy Brunetto** received his award, a **\$4000** scholarship, in Hawaii (part of the Pacific Islands WSC), and attends **Gateway Community College**.

**Alyx Schlafge**, the **\$3000** 2nd Place scholarship Austin Field Unit, Texas WSC attends **Vermilion College**.

**Sarah Jeanne Davis** of Wyoming WSC received her \$3000 award -- she attends **Western Dakota College**.

2013 – No awards were made due to a freeze by the Department of Interior on summer hires.

### NL165 (November) 2014 Winners:

**Carl Turner**, **\$4000** -- **Vermillion Community College**, MN.

**Adam Mastalir**, **\$4000** – **Madison Area Technical College**, WI.

2015 -- Winners are posted in the November newsletter NL169.

**Keith E. Mecum**, **\$4000** – **University of Texas**, San Antonio, TX.

**Devin S. Minnich**, **\$3000** – **University of Santa Cruz**, CA.

## MEMORIALS

**Jack Barbash, 58, --** a Research Chemist in the USGS Washington Water Science Center, passed away on Monday September 7, 2015 at his home in Vashion, WA after a valiant fight against cancer. He received his undergraduate degree in Earth Sciences from Harvard University, a MSc from the University of Waterloo, in Canada, in Contaminant Hydrogeology, focusing his research on the fate and transport of volatile organic compounds in shallow ground water, and his Ph.D from the Department of Environmental Engineering and Science at Stanford University, where he studied the rates and mechanisms of reaction of the pesticide EDB and several structurally related organic compounds with sulfide, nitrate and buffer anions in aqueous solution. Jack joined the USGS in 1991, where he served for 25 years as a Research Chemist. He was the ground-water specialist for the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program's Pesticide National Synthesis Team (PNST), until the team was disbanded in September 2012. In addition to his other duties, Jack's work with the PNST involved creating the initial design for the ground-water component of the NAWQA program. During his time with the PNST, he was the principal author of a well-respected book entitled, "Pesticides in Ground Water: Distribution, Trends and Governing Factors", which represented the state of the science regarding ground-water quality dynamics. His most recent research focused on the transport and fate of surface-derived contaminants in the hydrologic system, with an emphasis on organic compounds in the vadose zone and ground water. This work focused on the efficient and effective use of existing data and mechanistic models to predict areas of vulnerable ground-water quality throughout the US. Jack also used his outstanding knowledge of water chemistry and excellent writing skills on numerous water quality related projects with the Washington Water Science Center. Jack's commitment and dedication to the environment was a seminal part of his work life, as well as his life outside of the office. In addition to his technical efforts, Jack enthusiastically took on roles to help the Washington Water Science Center reduce its environmental footprint by leading the office's recycling and public transportation programs to name a few. He was an ardent supporter of habitat preservation and biodiversity education. He was the founder of The Alliance for Tompotica Conservation, a non-profit organization established to protect habitat and endangered species in Indonesia. Jack also was an accomplished pianist and a member of a number of bands. He was a frequent volunteer musician for Vashion Community Care. Jack's special talent as a musician and his generous contributions to the Center's Hydrotone and other musical performances will be well remembered. He was well respected and liked by partners, colleagues and friends. Jack's technical expertise, passion for his work, enthusiasm, and ever present friendly smile will be sorely missed. Jack is survived by his wife, Katheryn Sposato; his mother; and, a sister and brother. Jack was pre-deceased by his father, Ira Barbash. Jack's mother, Ellie, and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Berman received guests at the home of Jane Hochberg, 56 Herbert Terrace, West Orange on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

**Edith B. Chase** passed away on January 1, 2014 in Washington, D.C. In 1962, Edith was part of a large group who took over much of the technical review, editing and manuscript preparation in a new Special Report Section at the USGS National Center in Washington, D.C. Edith assisted in the preparation of the Water Use Studies section of the 'A History of Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, Volume VI (May 1, 1957 – June 30, 1966)'. She edited and reviewed many reports and was co-author of a Water-Quality oriented report, titled 'Water in Urban Areas.' The report was an expansion of WSP 1812, titled 'Public Water Supplies of the 100 Largest Cities in the United States, 1962, published in 1964. In 1975, she was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award granted to her by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Between 1987 and 1994, she was assigned to the Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Water Assessment and Data Coordination, Branch of National Water Summary, which also included duties in the Office of National Water Summaries and Long-Range Planning (1985-1986). Edith retired from WRD in 1994. She was the beloved wife of the late Marston "Stann" Chase; sister of Robert (Lois) Becker and the late Sol Becker; aunt and great-aunt of many family members. Graveside and inurnment were held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**Jennie E. Crook** passed away on August 19, 2015 in Tacoma, WA. Jennie had 35 years of service with the Federal government and especially during her last 28 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. She was recognized as a dedicated and knowledgeable secretary who displayed the highest professionalism in the execution of her work. Jennie began her career with the Federal Government in 1976 with the Department of Justice as a clerk stenographer working in the Bureau of Prisons at McNeil Island. In 1982, she transferred to the USGS in the Washington Water Science Center as the Director's secretary. Through the years in her position as secretary, Jennie's controlled and helpful demeanor always provided an outstanding first impression of professionalism for those doing business with the Washington Water Science Center. The Directors she worked for quickly learned that she could always be counted on to get the job done no matter how short the deadline or challenging the task. Jennie's speed, efficiency, and accuracy at accomplishing tasks were unmatched. Her dedication to continually upgrading her skills, especially computer skills, was a tremendous asset to the Center. Her work with PowerPoint presentations, building of the Center's Intranet website and its many archival databases, and production of key internal documents, such as the Annual Program Review, Accomplishment Reports, Health Assessments, and Briefing Documents were particularly innovative and contributed greatly to development of the Center's program. Jennie's work in maintaining, archiving and retrieving critical Center records was invaluable. Her

contributions to producing and maintaining the International Joint Commission's Osoyoos Lake and Columbia River Boards of Control annual reports and web sites were important. Moreover, her work as the public coordinator for the Washington Hydrogeology Symposium, as well as providing logistical support for numerous Center conferences were key to keeping conferences running smoothly and our visitors feeling welcomed. As a result of Jennie's dedication to delivering the highest quality support services to the management, staff and cooperators of the Washington Water Science Center, she earned the well-deserved respect of her USGS colleagues and those in the Department of Interior. Jennie Crook retired from the USGS on July 29, 2010.



**Dorothy W. Daniels, 98, (widow of the late retiree Warren Daniels),** passed away on August 26, 2015 in Springfield, VA. Dorothy was born in Massachusetts and was a longtime resident of Greenspring Village. She taught at various public and private schools across Fairfax County, and was a member of the Professional Engineer's Wives' Club and Northern Virginia Antiques' Society. Dorothy was preceded in death by her loving husband of 51 years, Warren S. Daniels and one son. She is survived by two sons and three grandchildren. A service to celebrate Dorothy's life was held, September 2, 2015 at Friendship United Methodist Church, Falls Church, VA. Interment followed at National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA.



**Glenn David Francis, 90,** passed away on June 2, 2015, in Tampa, FL. His love of life, nature, storytelling, and adventure touched everyone who knew him. Glenn was born in New Philadelphia, OH on May 22, 1925. He graduated from New Philadelphia High School in where he played football for Coach Woody Hayes. He served during WW II and was awarded the Army American Theater Ribbon, FAME Theater Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Glenn's career included 38 years at the US Geological Survey (USGS). He started working for the USGS Subdistrict Office in New Philadelphia (NP), OH in 1943 in the Surveillance Section doing data collection and records processing operations. In 1974, he became Chief of the Subdistrict Office. In 1981, Glenn retired from the USGS. After his retirement from the USGS, Glenn then worked for 22 years for the Army Corps of Engineers. He served on the Board of Elections, and the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He was a member of AARP, National Rifle Association, American Legion, Life Member of NP Veterans of Foreign Wars, and former treasurer of NP Exchange Club. Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas "Sandy" and Emma (Neiger) Francis; two brothers; a son; and, his soul mate and astrological twin, and wife of 65 years, Jeanne (Thomas) Francis. Survivors include: two daughters; five grandchildren; two step-grandsons; four great-grandchildren; and, two step-great granddaughters. Glenn was inurned next to his wife at the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH, following a private family memorial service. Those wishing to do so may send the family a personal condolence by visiting the funeral home's website at: [www.GeibCares.com](http://www.GeibCares.com)



**Len Gaydos** – We are sad to write that Len Gaydos died suddenly in an accident while on vacation in Fiji this week. His family held a service for him at the U.S. Geological Survey (345 Middlefield Road, Bldg. 3 Conference Room) at Menlo Park on Saturday, July 25, 2015. Please join us in expressing our condolences or send cards to Beth Gaydos, 17231 Sunset Mountain Place, Grass Valley, CA 95945.



**Irving "Butch" G. Grossman, 98,** passed away on July 18, 2015. Butch was born on May 4, 1917 in New York City, NY to Harry and Charlotte Grossman. He graduated from Samuel Tilden High School in 1935, and was admitted to the Brooklyn College evening sessions in 1938. In 1944, Butch graduated from Brooklyn College majoring in Geology and was accepted as a graduate student in Geology at Columbia University. He left Columbia University in 1946 to accept an appointment as an instructor in Geology at the University of North Dakota. Butch accepted a position around 1949 as a Ground Water Geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey District Office in Albany, NY. He married Ann Safran in 1956. They had met as members of the Amateur Albany Civic Theatre. Butch was transferred to the newly established USGS District Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1957, and commuted weekly to St. Thomas Virgin Islands for a nine-month study of ground-water conditions there. Later in 1962, he transferred to the Middletown, CT District Office, where he studied the ground-water resources of the Thames River Basin in eastern Connecticut. In 1968, he became editor of the Connecticut District, and in 1978 Butch was transferred as an editor to the Water Resources Division, National Center, Reston, VA. After six years at the National Center, Butch transferred to the Trenton, NJ District Office in 1984 as an editor. In 1986, he retired after 37 years of service to the USGS. The last 17 years of his career with the USGS was as an editor -- the estimated number of publications he edited exceeded 200. After retirement, Butch was hired as an editor by the New Jersey Geological Survey (NJGS) in Trenton, NJ. He retired from the NJGS in 1994 but still volunteered as an editor. In 2013, the NJGS honored Butch with a birthday party close to his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Butch is survived by his wife, Ann; two sons and two granddaughters. A private family service was held.



**William 'Bill' F. Guyton, 95**, passed away in his long-time Austin home on March 2, 2013. Bill was born on October 15, 1917, in Oxford MS, to Billy Sylvester and Kate (Smallwood) Guyton. At the tender age of 17 he married Mary Lou Camp, and began a remarkable life journey. He received a B.A. from the University of Mississippi in 1938, and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from that institution in 1945. He began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1939 as a hydraulic engineer in the Ground Water Branch, living in several states throughout the South, and retired in 1950. In 1951 he settled in Austin, TX, where he established the firm of William F. Guyton and Associates. He continued to operate that firm until he was well into his 70s. His firm was extremely successful, and Bill became recognized internationally as an expert in his field. Bill is pre-deceased by his wife and first love, Mary Lou, to whom he was married for over 50 years, his oldest son, and his second wife and second love, Jane Bundy Hallfrisch, to whom he was married for over 25 years. Bill also is pre-deceased by his two brothers. He is survived by two sons; two daughters; a step-daughter; a sister; and, also survived by 19 grandchildren and other family members; and, 24 great-grandchildren. As much as Bill loved his work, he loved his family even more. All those who knew him will remember him for his keen intellect, big heart, generosity, and unwavering integrity. The family wishes to extend special thanks to Pat Guyton and Diane Hanover for their loving care of Bill, as well as to his wonderful care givers, Gil, Minnie and Oscar, and long-time friends and caregivers, Cornelio Jaimes and Ophelia Ybarra, they gave Bill companionship and dignity in his last year, and Bill's family is so very grateful. Bill's family also appreciate the highly qualified, caring and loving staff at Resolutions Hospice LLC. Private graveside services were held March 5, in a simple ceremony to start Bill on his journey. A celebration of Bill's life was held on Saturday, March 23, 2015 at Bethany United Methodist Church, Austin, TX. Godspeed, Bill.



**Frances M. LeCain (wife WRD retiree of Gary LeCain)** passed away peacefully, at home, on September 10, 2015. Fran was raised in Indianapolis, IN and moved to Colorado in 1985. Fran had a full and productive life that included music, degrees from Indiana University and the University of Denver, and a 35-year career in telecommunications. Fran's greatest joy was living in Colorado where she could hike, ski, camp and spend time in the mountains with friends and family. A Celebration of Life was held on September 17, 2015, at The Barn Chapel at Evergreen Memorial Park, Evergreen, CO.



**Myron N. Lys, 88**, died in La Jolla, CA on June 30, 2015. He was born on December 26, 1926 in what at that time was known the Ukraine in Europe. Myron immigrated to the United States in 1951 and soon served in the U.S. Military in the Korean War. With the help of the G.I. Bill, Myron completed his college career, which began in the Ukraine and continued at the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering. He began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the late 1950's or early 1960's in the Office in the Surface-Water Branch as a hydraulic engineer at the USGS District Office in Boston, MA. There, he learned the basics of streamflow data collection and analysis and also conducted hydraulic studies of Massachusetts streams. In 1965, Myron transferred to the College Park, Maryland (MD) Office of the Maryland-Delaware-Washington D.C. District Office of the USGS and later moved to the Towson, Maryland Office. At both locations, he worked in the hydrologic data section. He measured Maryland streams and analyzed surface-water records and was instrumental in preparing the annual Water Data Report for publication. Myron retired in 1990 with more than 30 years of service. Myron was a quiet individual. He knew what his job was and he did it without any glamour or fanfare. Besides marrying his wife, Irena, one of the highlights of Myron's life was to see his son, Igor, graduate with a B.S., M.S., and PHD in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon Institute, in Pittsburgh, PA, one of the premier engineering schools in the country. Igor later became very successful in the business world as well. Myron Lys was a very competent worker and will be missed by a host of former co-workers in the USGS. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Irena; his son; and, two grandchildren.

*-Submitted by Herb Freiberger*



**Nancy C. Musser, age 82, (wife of WRD retiree John J. Musser)** passed away on September 7, 2015. Nancy was a long time resident of Baton Rouge, LA but hailed from Lancaster, PA. She was an active member of The Encore Club and The Newcomers Club of Baton Rouge. She also was an avid Bridge player as well as a loving homemaker. She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, John; her two sons; three grandchildren; and, numerous great-grandchildren. Nancy is preceded in death by her parents, Harley Courson and Margaret (Buckwalter) Courson. The family visiting hours were observed on September 10, 2015, at Resthaven Gardens of Memory and Funeral Home.

**Eugene "Gene" P. Patten, 84**, passed away on July 12, 2015. He was born on February 1, 1931. In 1951, a formal U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ground-Water Hydrology training class was established, and Gene participated as one of the session leaders at both the basic and professional levels. In the 1960's, Gene took over the Hydrologic (analog) Modeling Unit, which was established in Phoenix, AZ and was eventually relocated to the Northeastern Region. Between 1960 and 1962, Gene was assigned to oversee several major hydrologic projects, such as helping establish the West Pakistan Ground-Water Survey and serve as a key member on the Lower Colorado River Project to determine ground-water flow

into Mexico and to determine adequate aquifers in the Lower Colorado River Basin. He also worked on a project with the Corps of Engineers on the rising levels of the Arkansas River. He served as chief investigator on a Pennsylvania study and produced a number of new techniques useful for interpreting both geophysical logs and hydrologic wells. Between 1982 and 1989, Gene served at the Chief, Office of Ground Water at the USGS National Center in Reston, VA. During this time, he also was a committee member for an internal Technical Advisory Committee that was established to review the pilot project concepts and plans for full-scale implementation of the National Water Quality Assessment Program. Gene retired in 1990.



**Mervin S. “Merv” Petersen (95)**, passed away in Weatherford, TX on August 17, 2015. He was born on January 6, 1920 in Hyde Park, UT to Arthur M. Petersen and Mary Eliza (Seamons) Petersen. He attended elementary school in Hyde Park and high school in Richmond, UT. Merv’s mother passed away when he was eight years old, and his father when he was just 18. He was active in sports, played in the high school band and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the exception of Life Saving. He could swim like a fish but didn’t earn the life-saving merit badge. He worked his way through college and earned a BS in Civil Engineering in June 1942. He was commissioned into the Navy in

July 1942 and reported to the Shipyard in Bremerton, WA. Shortly thereafter, he received a year of graduate study in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at MIT and then returned to Bremerton, where he was Ship Superintendent and responsible for the repair and overhaul of battle damaged vessels. He married Charlotte Hunter on January 18, 1944 at the chapel of the Naval Shipyard. He was on active duty in the Navy for four years and in the Naval Reserve for eight more, eventually advancing to Lieutenant Commander. Between the years of 1944 and 1952, Charlotte gave birth to three beautiful daughters – Merv had a great sense of humor, he asked his wife after their third daughter was born ‘if she knew that there were boys also?’; in 1956, their son was born; and, in 1963 a surprise package arrived -- their youngest child, and beautiful daughter. Following his active duty Navy career in 1946, Merv was hired as a Civil Engineer by the USGS, WRD in Logan, UT. After three years, he transferred to Riverton WY as Engineer-in-Charge of that office and to head up a study of the stream flow and sediment discharging into the Boysen Reservoir on the Wind River. In 1953, he transferred to WRD headquarters in Washington, D.C. for additional training in special studies and reviewed the work of other WRD districts of the United States (U.S.). After a year, he returned to Riverton, WY for a short stint, and then on to Rolla, MO to head up a research study on the frequency of flooding of Missouri streams for the Missouri State Highway Department. This was a state-wide study to assist in the design of bridges and culverts to take care of the storm runoff. The study required a staff of several Engineers and other assistants to prepare a number of reports on flood frequency and the required sizing of bridges as a result. In 1958, in addition to his Missouri work, Merv accepted an assignment as Flood Specialist for the Mid-Continent Region. This required quite a bit of travel to other states to supervise flood measurement and training of personnel. He also took part in a study on the Ohio River to predict the flooding that would occur along the river should the entire area receive the maximum rainfall ever experienced. In August 1965, Merv transferred to Denver, CO as a member of the Regional Staff. He served as Surface-Water Specialist supervising the Surface-Water work in 20 States of the Rocky Mountain Region. His work included the Surface-Water reviews of many of the states in the U.S. He made several of these reviews, including Hawaii. In this new assignment he was asked to teach Hydraulics and Hydrology at the National Training Center in Denver, where students from all over the world came for training. He continued in all these above activities, until he retired in January 1980 with 42 years of federal service. A retirement party was given for him with many co-workers attending. Merv was raised in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and was active in the Church, throughout his life, wherever he and his family resided during his career with the USGS. In August, 1993 he was called to be a Patriarch for the Golden, CO Stake of the LDS Church, and he served in this capacity for 14 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Charlotte. He is survived by his son and four daughters; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A funeral service, including a Military Honors rendered by the U.S. Navy Honor Guard, was held on August 28, 2015 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Golden, CO. Interment was on August 31, 2015 at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO.



**Velma J. (Conklin) Rawson, 80 (wife of retiree Jack Rawson)**, passed away on August 4, 2015. Velma was born on April 3, 1935, to Pearl E. Smith and John Henry Conklin near Ellendale, MN. The oldest daughter of the Conklin family, Velma and her four siblings lived a happy, but busy life on the farm. She graduated from Ellendale High School in 1952. Velma enlisted in the U.S. Navy in April 1953 and completed basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center for women at Bainbridge, MD. She later applied for and was accepted for training at the U.S. Naval Hospital Corps School at Great Lakes, IL where she met Jack Rawson from Texas. It was love at first sight and he proposed marriage on their first formal date, and they were married on February 26, 1954 in Mississippi. In November 1954, Velma received her discharge and moved to Millington, TN to be with her husband. For many years, Velma leveraged her naval training by working as a nurse in a variety of private physician practices. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Jack; a daughter and a son; two granddaughters; three grandsons; and, one great-granddaughter. A celebration of Velma Jane’s life was held on August 15, 2015 at the Smith Family Chapel at Riverbend Church, Austin, TX. Interment of ashes was held at Riverbend’s Remembrance Gardens.



**Harold P. Shanahan, Jr., 85**, Senior Master Sargent USAF Ret passed away on July 13, 2015. He was born on February 16, 1930 to Harold P., Sr. and Elsie Shanahan in Guthrie, OK. He graduated from Guthrie High School and later married Louise Marion on December 31, 1948. As a combat veteran, he proudly served with the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during the Korean Conflict. After returning from Korea he joined the US Air Force and was sent to Japan and the Philippines as well as numerous bases in the United States. He retired after 24 years of combined service. After his military service he was hired at the U.S. Geological Survey in Austin, TX. He retired with 15 years of civil service. His passion was

rebuilding and restoring Chevrolet Corvairs from top to bottom. He competed in several car shows and won multiple awards and trophies. He was an active member of the Lone Star Corvair Club. His expertise was sought by many Corvair enthusiasts in Austin and throughout Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents and a granddaughter. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Louise; his three sons; his three siblings; seven grandchildren; and, five great-grandchildren. The family received friends on Friday, July 17, 2015, at Harrell Funeral Home, Austin, TX. A graveside service with US Air Force Honors was held on July 18, 2015, at Live Oak Cemetery, Manchaca, TX.



**Matthew (Matt) J. Sliwiak, 91**, passed away on July 31, 2015 in Gaithersburg, MD. Matt was born on September 9, 1923. Matt worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in the Water Resources Division from 1972 to 1991. Matt was preceded in death by his beloved wife Joan T. Sliwiak. Matt is survived by two sons; two grandsons; two brothers; and, a twin sister. He is also survived by a host of loving relatives and friends. Visitation was held on August 9, 2015 at Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home, in Silver Spring, MD; and, a Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Silver Spring, MD on August 10, 2015. Interment was held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery.



**James 'Jim' A. Stewart, 86**, passed away on September 19, 2015. Jim was born on November 30, 1946 in Seymour, IN to Wilbur A. and Leona (Siefker) Stewart. He grew up in Brownstown, IN where he enjoyed playing in Oak and Hickory forests of the Jackson County hills; a time that would shape his love for nature during the rest of his life. He graduated from Brownstown, High in 1964. He married Susan Stewart on June 19, 1971; he had the good fortune of marrying one of the finest cooks in the United States. Jim received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology from Indiana University at Indianapolis in 1976, and began his life career when he was hired by the U.S. Geological Survey in October 1976 as a

Hydrologic Technician. In 1978, Jim received his rating as a Hydrologist. He went on to publish the results of studies on Low-Flow Stream Statistics, and Streamflow Network Analysis. Jim served as Data Chief for 12 years, and during that time he and his crew achieved many innovative improvements in efficiency of processing data, accuracy of data, and safety in data collection. He designed a Tethered Boat System that allowed the use of Acoustical Doppler current Profilers from bridges to measure stream flow. The System replaced a mechanical method that had been used since 1876. This System and other innovations involving in-stream time-of-travel and eventually In-stream Doppler systems changed the way stream-flow data are obtained in the US and eventually the world. These accomplishments resulted in Jim receiving the Meritorious Service Award from the US Department of Interior. During his last three years at the Survey, he served as District Chief of Indiana. Jim retired to his farm in Shelby County in 2006, where he lived in an 1830's two-story, stone-creek house that he refurbished, He spent much time caring for the woods on his farm and enjoying the farm activities. Jim loved the West. He rode horses in the Rocky Mountains, hiked in Utah and California National Parks with his wife, Susan. He loved Glacier, Zion, Yosemite, and Yellowstone Parks and many others. He began a hobby of recreating Period Furniture Pieces toward the end of his life. Jim is survived by his wife, two sons and three grandchildren. Visitation was held on September 22, 2015 at the Freeman Family Funeral Homes & Crematory. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on September 23, 2015 at St. Vincent DePaul in Shelbyville, IN. Interment was at the VanPelt Cemetery in Shelby County, IN.

*-Prepared by Mr. Stewart prior to his death.*



**Warren E. Teasdale, 80**, passed away at home on October 7, 2015 after a long battle with cancer. Warren was born on June 15, 1935 to Otto and Florence Teasdale of Oceanside, NY. He graduated from Freeport High School. In the early 1950's he was a volunteer firefighter with the Alpha H&L Company #1 in Roosevelt, NY. He began his college years at Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute, and then transferred to Hofstra College, NY (now Hofstra University) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1958. While at Hofstra University, he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve (inactive), was a member of the wrestling team, worked for the post office and was a member of the Geology Club. In 1959 Warren was hired by Ivan Johnson to work for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Water

Resources Division (WRD). He was assigned to the Sacramento, CA field unit (1961-1962), which reported to the Special Services Unit/Hydrologic Laboratory at Headquarters in Washington D.C. The Unit/Hydrologic Laboratory provided hydrologic analyses and other mechanical and hydrologic tests of earth materials and guidance to field personnel in collecting materials for testing, including the rental of necessary field equipment. He transferred to the Idaho Falls WRD

Office in 1962. At the Idaho Falls Office, he measured water levels periodically for the Ground–Water Branch and continued to work in the drilling field. Warren worked on a study while in the Idaho District Office. The study was titled “Traces of Hydrology – the Migration of Tritium in a Perched Alluvial Aquifer Waste Disposal Pond near the Test Reactor Complex at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho.” In 1969, Warren transferred to the Denver Federal Center to work in the Regional Hydrologist Office, WRD in Lakewood, CO. At Denver his position was Chief of the Research Drilling, Sampling, and Testing-Techniques Project. Based on his years of experience, he was considered the expert on drilling, coring and sampling techniques for holes and wells. Warren authored or co-authored several WRD publications. He travelled throughout the United States (US) and its Territories on drilling projects, such as test drilling in the Lalamilo basaltic area of the South Kohala WRD District Office in Hawaii. Results of the study were published in USGS Open File Report 80-1299. He also worked on drilling projects in the Marshall Islands and in other US Territories. Warren retired in 1990 after 37 years of service to the USGS. After retirement, he became a member of the Golden “K” Foothills Kiwanis Club in Lakewood and began doing volunteer outreach work on various local projects. Warren also became involved with the West Metro’s Community Outreach Division (COD) in 1990. As a volunteer with COD, Warren joined the Lakewood Speaker’s Bureau. He received training on many other outreach activities, including becoming a certified children’s car-seat technician. Warren was active in his Lutheran Church as a Congregational Coordinator for Thrivents and was a choir member. He also was a volunteer member of the WRD Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Committee since its beginning in 2006. Warren is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dee; two children and three granddaughters. A memorial service was held on October 15, 2015 at the Atonement Lutheran Church in Lakewood, CO. Inurnment followed the memorial service.



**Davison V. Vivit, Sr.** passed away peacefully on the morning of June 1, 2011. He was born as the oldest of five in Manila, Philippines and moved to the U.S. as a child. After serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, he worked at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for almost 38 years. Davison worked in the Surface-Water Chemistry Discipline of the USGS National Research Program in Menlo Park, CA. Specifically, he worked in the Chemistry of Hydrosolic Metals and Constituents of Natural Waters Section. He was also a loyal member of St. Justin Parish. He is survived by his loving wife, Novelle; two sons; and, four siblings. He will be forever missed. Visitation was held on June 6, 2011 at the Lima Family; and, Mass on June 7, 2011 at St. Justin Church, Santa Clara, CA.



**Patrick N. “Pat” Walker**, died peacefully in Easton, MD on September 9, 2015, with both his son and daughter at his side. Pat was born to the late William and Loretta Walker on October 5, 1927, in Lincoln, NE. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wonderful wife of 53 years, Bonnie; and son, Robert. Surviving are son, William Walker, daughter, Linda Behm, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Pat joined the U.S. Navy in 1945 at the completion of high school and served 13 months on several ships during the close of WWII, fortunately never having to see battle. In the fall of 1946, he enrolled in the University of Nebraska where he earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1949. Pat accepted a position as a hydraulic engineer with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Cambridge, Nebraska and moved there immediately after graduation. In Cambridge, he learned the basics of streamflow data collection and analysis and conducted a wide range of surface-water hydraulic studies of Nebraska streams. In 1955, after building a firm foundation of surface-water data and analytical skills, Pat left Nebraska and took five progressively more complex USGS positions, oddly all along the Atlantic coast. In order, they were in the Raleigh, NC District office; the Office of the Delaware River Master, in Milford, PA; the Baltimore, MD District office; the Richmond, VA District office; and completed his career in the New England District Office in Boston, MA. All of these positions, except the last one in Boston were heavily involved with the technical side of surface-water hydrologic studies and in the supervision of hydrologic data sections. Pat’s assignments in the Delaware River Master’s Office involved conducting streamflow measurements and analysis in support of the U.S. Supreme Court Decree for allocating water from upstream Delaware River reservoirs to the downstream cities of New York, Trenton and Philadelphia, as well as guaranteeing a minimum flow to Delaware Bay. The last 10 years of Pat’s career (1975-85) were in Boston, where he was the Associate District Chief of the New England District, which included offices in all six New England States. In that assignment he was second in command and responsible for program development and management, fiscal and personnel management, report production and overall quality of the District operations. Pat was a master of clever wit. Anyone who befriended Pat quickly learned they were automatically engaged in a friendly war of wits. Later, the unsuspecting new friend would learn that while they might occasionally win a battle or two, they would never win the war. Frankly, both of us (Herb and Jeff) can attest to this reality. His wit was both razor sharp and quick but it was never hurtful. Pat was a joy to engage in banter. In the fall of 1979, the New England District suffered a horrible loss with the tragic death of John Baker, the NE District Chief. Pat, along with Mike Frimpter in Massachusetts and the Subdistrict Chiefs in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire/Vermont, and Rhode Island had to fill the enormous vacuum created by John’s death. Pat showed true strength of character during the period he was Acting District Chief, until Ivan James arrived in Boston. When the going got tough, Pat got going. Most of the senior members of the NE District found both a friend and wise counselor in Pat. His personal stories were glorious because of the remarkable memory he had for minute details, even years after an event. Warm

reminders of past times were always made treasures by the details he seemed to have on instant recall. Pat had an extensive Native American Indian artifact collection he started while still in Nebraska and added to while serving in the Deputy Delaware River Master's office in Milford, Pa. His wide-range Civil War collection was mostly put together while in Richmond, VA and Maryland. He also had a rather unique collection of razors (the shaving kind), including some most people would not even know existed. These collections are sufficiently noteworthy that his family hopes to donate most of them to several museums. Memories that we will treasure are our friendship with Pat and his dear sweet Bonnie, the hospitality they showed us at their home in Marblehead, and the reality that had he not been a talented hydrologist and superb manager, he could have made a comfortable living as a stand-up comedian! Both of us have many recollections of Pat's wonderful stories (particularly after a beverage or two), his radiant smile and his infectious laugh. What a joy to have had Pat both as colleague and friend. He will be missed by his colleagues, friends, and many others.

*-Submitted by Herb Freiberger and Jeff Armbruster*

### **THANK YOU**

The newsletter staff would like to express our appreciation to Jim Blakey, Herb Freiberger, Jeff Armbruster, and Sharon Goss for their continued support regarding the notification and preparation of Memorials for members, non-members, and spouses.

### **HUMOR**

#### **STREAM GAGING**

**ALKALINITY TITRATION:** Test confirming the inability of streamgagers to find the end point of anything.

**BATTERY:** Device used to run gaging station equipment only when streamgager is present.

**DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT NOTES:** Sheet of paper that disintegrates in rain, blows away in wind, and comes back to haunt you.

**MINIMONITOR:** Complicated electronic instrument used to produce minimum amount of useful data.

**OUTSIDE STAFF PLATE:** Irresistible target used by locals to sharpen their shooting skills.

**PH METER:** Instrument used to test the boiling point of streamgagers.

**QW:** Abbreviation for quite weird.

**RECORDER, DIGITAL:** Machine designed to shred paper, destroy batteries, manufacture confetti and quit when flow starts.

**SEDIMENT COLLECTION:** Devious and clever ploy used by milk companies to sell their old bottles.

## RETIREMENTS



**Michael 'Mike' Eberle** has retired after nearly 36 years with the USGS. Mike transitioned from active-duty status to volunteer service on August 31, 2015. He began his career with the USGS in January 1980 in Columbus, OH, with what was then the Ohio District of the Water Resources Division (WRD), now the Ohio Water Science Center (WSC). His initial task with the USGS was turning the office's jumbled collection of books and reports into a functional library (Mike has a degree in library science), but he soon became involved in fieldwork and data-related activities. It wasn't long before he was assigned to Ohio's water-use project and began authoring USGS reports. Upon the retirement of the Ohio District's editor in 1982, Mike took up the editing trade and has been at it ever since. Early on, his colleagues recognized his knack for preserving authors' style and making suggestions that clarified awkward expression of technical concepts; thus, in addition to his

work in Ohio, he was sought out for editing publications of regional and national scope. In the early 1990s, Mike was tapped to help teach "Writing and Editing Hydrologic Reports," a class based on the publishing traditions of the WRD. He ultimately became the chief trainer of the class and taught hundreds of people at dozens of locations over nearly 20 years. Things changed somewhat when the Enterprise Publishing Network (EPN; now the Science Publishing Network, or SPN) was established in 2006. Mike's editing territory expanded to cover many other science centers besides the Ohio WSC and disciplines far beyond traditional hydrology. He returned to teaching with the launch of the SPN's "Empowering Authors" course in 2009, working alongside with a wonderful and inspiring crew of colleagues since then. Throughout all these transitions, Mike had the good fortune of keeping his home base right in Columbus at the Ohio WSC. As mentioned previously, Mike will not be totally cutting his USGS ties but will be volunteering a few hours a week for the foreseeable future. The rest of his newly available personal time will mostly be devoted to a backlog of household projects, plus some interesting new service opportunities in his local community. Per Mike's wishes for minimal fanfare and drama, his friends at the Ohio WSC celebrated his retirement with a simple observance on Friday, August 28, 2015.

**Gregg J. Wiche** retired on June 1, 2015 after 37 years of service to the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS). He completed a BS degree in Geography from South Dakota University in 1975 and later a MS degree in Geology from the University of Alberta in 1977. Shortly after graduation from the University of Alberta, Gregg started working for the USGS at the District Office in Baton Rouge, LA in 1978. He was assigned to work in the Hydrologic Investigations Section. Several major floods on the Lower Pearl River from 1976 to 1983 led to an early study by Gregg and J. Josh Gilbert on flood routing on the Lower Pearl River. These studies, in turn, evolved into more intensive investigations that led to using digital flow models to predict the impact of these floods in the Slidell area. These investigations increased understanding and documentation of the events that were recorded in the flood of 1983 and in the analysis of backwater that occurred at the I-10 Interstate Highway 10 crossings of the Pearl River. On May 1, 1983, Gregg was transferred to the USGS District Office in Bismarck, ND, where he was assigned to the Hydrologic Investigations Section. In support of the first Garrison Diversion investigation, Gregg worked on the Project "Data Development and Analysis for Use in the Bureau of Reclamation Model on the James River." The study was used to compile and analyze monthly discharge data needed as input to a planning flow model for the James River. While in North Dakota, Gregg also participated in Devils Lake Basin Investigations. He worked on studies and data-monitoring programs designed to improve understanding of the Devils Lake hydrology. Some of the investigations that Gregg worked on included: "An Investigation of the Hydrology and Climatologic Mechanisms Controlling the Water-Surface Elevations of Devils Lake," "Evaporation and Ground-Water Interaction of Devils Lake, North Dakota," "Frequency Analysis, Devils Lake, North Dakota," and "Variations in Surface-Water Quantity and Quality as a Result of the 1993 Summer Flood in the Devils Lake Basin, North Dakota." On November 9, 1997, Gregg was appointed Director of the North Dakota Water Science Center. On June 1, 2015, he retired from the USGS. Gregg currently serves as a Scientist Emeritus for the North Dakota Water Science Center. He lives in Bismarck and looks forward to having more time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

## NEW RETIREES

**Eberle, Michael “Mike” (15)** 44 E. Longview Ave., Columbus, OH 43202-1234  
**Corral, Miguel (15)** 6422 Larmon St., Tampa, FL 33634-5018; (h) 813-886-0709 [mig1941@aol.com](mailto:mig1941@aol.com)  
**Konikow, Leonard (15) (Phyllis)** 11316 Myrtle Lane, Reston, VA 20191; (h) 703-476-5498 [ikonikow2@hotmail.com](mailto:ikonikow2@hotmail.com)  
**Pinnix, Rose D. (15)** P.O. Box 120, Efland, NC 27243; (h) 919-563-3252, (c) 919-810-1402 [leanlady54@yahoo.com](mailto:leanlady54@yahoo.com)  
**Webster, Mike (15) (Sally)** 802 W Clay St., Ukiah, CA 95482. 707-513-8163, [retsbew1947@gmail.com](mailto:retsbew1947@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Ackerman, Daniel (09) (Charlotte)** – add spouse’s name  
**Bartlett, William (13)** 240-415-9224 (h), 703-380-7990 (c) – phone nos.  
**Boning, Charles “Bill” (94)** 571-442-8910 – phone  
**Gibs, Jacob (14)** [Jacob.gibs@icloud.com](mailto:Jacob.gibs@icloud.com) - email  
**Hill, Catherine L (06)** 1399 Concord Point Lane, Reston, VA 20194 - addr  
**Jordan, Paul (94)** – correct spelling of last name  
**Kircher, James E. (15) (Mick)** 303-638-3404 – switch from affiliate to member, phone, spouse’s name  
**Knapton, Roger (93)** 3253 So. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718 – addr  
**Laenen, Tony (95)** P.O. Box 1749 Jacksonville, OR 97530; 541-270-9757, [tony@laenenart.com](mailto:tony@laenenart.com) – addr, phone, email  
**Rima, Mrs. Donald (W) “Dot”** 8501 S. Northshore Dr., Apt. 119, Knoxville, TN 37922; 616-972-8112 – addr., phone  
**Rosenau, Jack (85)** 2634 Streetfair Lane, Tallahassee, FL, 32317, 850-459-7625 – addr, phone  
**Schumann, Herbert (95)** [hhschumann@cox.net](mailto:hhschumann@cox.net) - email  
**Simpson, Charlene T. (06)** 21112 Cardinal Pond Terr., Ashburn, VA 20147, 571-510-3737 – addr, phone  
**Snyder, Richard “Dick” (95)** [alaska.aliska.net](mailto:alaska.aliska.net) - email  
**Thompson, Judy Fretwell (97)** – 1 Key Capri, 201E Treasure Island, FL 33706, 608-432-1999, [docksiders@earthlink.net](mailto:docksiders@earthlink.net) – addr, phone, email  
**Wolcott, Stephen W. (11)** 2801 S. Ridgewood Ave., Unit 1105, S. Datona, FL 32119 - addr  
**Wood, Charles (98)** [woodchuckxx@yahoo.com-email](mailto:woodchuckxx@yahoo.com-email) – email

### Note to State and Regional Contacts

#### **New Members – Invitation to Retirees’ Meetings, Breakfasts, Lunches, Dinners, etc.**

We have quite a large number of new members that need to be contacted and invited to participate in local and national retirees’ activities (i.e., Breakfasts, Luncheons, Dinners, Meetings, etc.).

I invite our State and Regional Contacts to research back issues of the Newsletters and the current Retirees’ Telephone Directory and contact those new members in their areas. Please extent an invitation and welcome them to the organization.

If you are a ‘new’ member, please feel free to contact your State and/or Regional representative. Their contact information is located in the Retirees’ Telephone Directory.

As the State representative for Northern Virginia, I invite by email and/or phone calls, over 100 members each month and encourage them to attend our lunch/meetings. We arrange for speakers, from our group and from outside at each function.

A list of ‘Local Meetings and Gatherings’ can be found on page 3 of the WRD Retirees’ Directory (May 2015) or on our website at: <http://wrdretirees.org/>

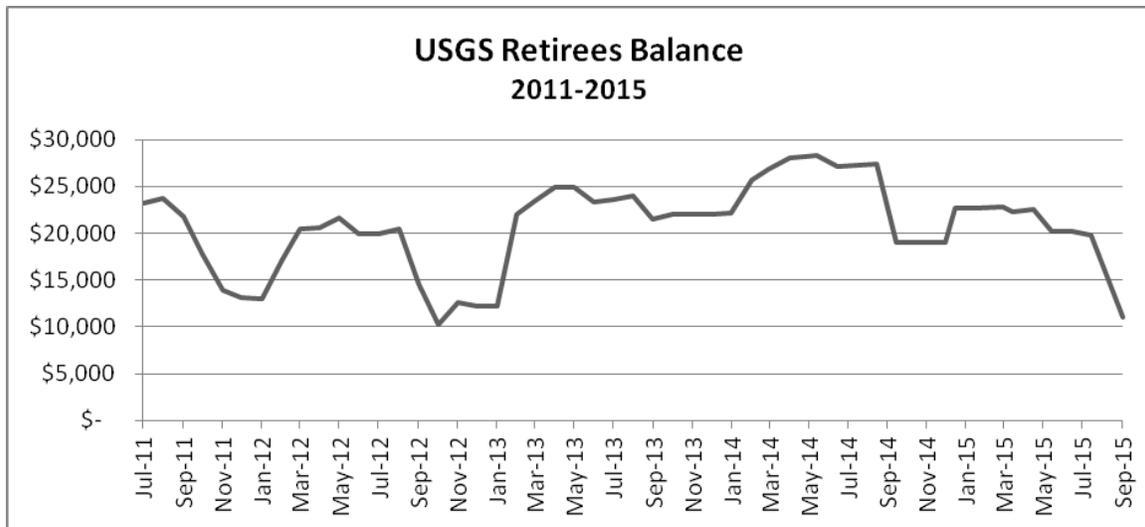
Clarence “Andy” Anderson, Secretary of USGS Retirees Organization

## TREASURER' S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2015

Treasurer Celso Puentes reports that the organization had \$11,032.81 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2015. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,100.35 from dues and contributions from 31 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$9,859.99, including the cost for the printing of the USGS Retirees Newsletter, support funding for the USGS Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, and funding for the WRD Scholarship Program recipients. During the quarter, a total of \$280.00 in contributions above dues was received from 14 members.

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

Jack Rosenau, John Briggs, James Vanzandt, Wayne Webb, William P. Bartlett, Russell Flint, Linda V. Beal, Charles A. Peters, Wilbert O. Thomas, Merritt Blalock, Dennis Wentz, Gerald F. Lindholm, William Mann, and Edwin Weeks.





## **History of the USGS WRD Retirees Organization**

**By Richard A. Engberg, USGS Retirees Archivist**

The U. S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division Retirees Organization (WRD Retirees) was actually formed in 1973 by a group of retired hydrologists. However the study and evaluation of the nation's water resources by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) began only a few years after the USGS was created March 3, 1879 by President Rutherford B. Hayes. The early history of water resources investigations by USGS is critical to the history of WRD Retirees.

By 1884, the USGS was training individuals as hydrographers and in 1888 the National Streamgaging Program was initiated with the installation of the first gaging station, the Embudo, New Mexico gage on the Rio Grande River. However, it wasn't until 1894 that there was a Congressional appropriation for streamgaging and that same year the Hydrographic Division of USGS was created.

In 1902, water became an even more important function of USGS with the creation of the Hydrographic Branch which included not only the Hydrographic Division for streamgaging but also the Division of Hydrology for groundwater and the Division of Hydro-Economics for water quality as it related to agriculture and industry. This continued with some reorganization and name changes until 1949.

In 1949, the Water Resources Division (WRD), as we know it, was created with separate branches for surface water, groundwater, and water quality. This organization was not a whole lot different than the organization as it was set up in 1902 but it did create the name WRD. Although the name didn't change, WRD was reorganized again in 1964 to allow the three branches to be combined at the District level under District Chiefs who reported to the Division.

This brief history of water activities in USGS provides the backdrop for the creation and formation of WRD Retirees. Many of the individuals who began their careers about the time that WRD was formed in 1949 were retired or were nearing retirement age in the early 1970s. WRD was like a second family to many of these individuals and they didn't want to lose track of former colleagues after retirement.

So in the spring of 1973 in the same general time period that Washington, DC offices of USGS were consolidated at the new Headquarters in Reston, after serious discussions between them and other colleagues, a group of WRD retirees, George Ferguson, Joe Wells, and Ken Love secured a meeting with Chief Hydrologist Roy Hendricks to present their ideas about an organization for WRD Retirees and to determine if WRD would support such an organization. Hendricks supported the idea and named Joe Cragwall to be the WRD liaison to the fledgling organization. Thus WRD Retirees was born.

The initial activity was a nationwide canvas of about 200 retirees from WRD whose addresses were known. This canvas was conducted by a group of eight retirees from the DC area. They explained the concept of WRD Retirees and requested that interested persons send one dollar to defray costs. The reaction was overwhelming and individual contributions of up to \$75 were received. Based on the enthusiastic response, a 12 member "Interim Work Group" chaired by George Ferguson was formed and this group guided the activities of WRD Retirees from 1973 through 1975. Charlie Morgan served as Secretary of the group.

Other activities in the 1973-1975 time period included publication in the fall of 1973 of the first Newsletter which was two pages in length. A directory of 221 members was also printed in 1973 followed in late 1974 by the second directory of nearly 300 members. During the same period, a constitution and by-laws were developed for the group by Walt Durum and were approved by the membership. At Joe Cragwall's suggestion, interested active WRD personnel were invited to become affiliate members of WRD Retirees.

In 1976, WRD Retirees elected its first slate of National Officers and Regional Directors. Presidents are elected by the membership and serve two year terms. Interestingly, by this time, Roy Hendricks had retired and had become an active member of WRD Retirees. He was elected the first president. Other National officers include Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist. Like the President, the Vice President is elected for a two year term. Although the Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist are elected to their positions, they tend to serve for extended periods of time. WRD Retirees Presidents from 1976 to the present are listed in Appendix A.

Presently, WRD Retirees has a "State Contact" person in nearly every state. These people encourage other retirees in their state to contribute to the "News of Retirees" section of the newsletter and to contact recent retirees. They also are

the people that usually are responsible for local meetings. Local meetings or gatherings are held in approximately 40 locations around the country. The State contact persons and the locations of local meetings are listed elsewhere on the WRD Retirees website.

Thanks to the original interest in the organization by Roy Hendricks and Joe Cragwall, two rooms on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Center were made available to WRD Retirees. One office is used by the National Secretary to maintain correspondence with members and to collect pertinent information about members including new member information and information about the deaths of existing members. The membership of WRD Retirees peaked at about 1400 members around 2010 but has been declining slightly since then. The 2015 Directory lists 1315 members and affiliates. The second office is a storehouse of historical information about USGS including an extensive library of photographs from earlier days. It is maintained by the National archivist. When WRD still existed, it provided valuable critical services to WRD Retirees including mailing newsletters and directories and providing WRD Retirees with information concerning recently retired employees. More recently, privacy concerns for individuals have hampered these efforts significantly.

Current dues for WRD Retirees are \$10 per year. What do members get for their \$10? Presently, WRD Retirees receive include a 24 page Newsletter on a quarterly basis and a Directory of members on an annual basis. Members also receive access to the WRD Retirees website and Facebook page. Another principal activity open to all members is the WRD Retirees Reunion held every two years. Finally, in 2006, WRD Retirees initiated a program to offer scholarships for Hydrologic Technicians. These scholarships are principally available to students from colleges that offer two year degrees as Hydrologic Technicians. The newsletter and the reunions will be discussed in more detail in the following paragraphs.

From its humble two page beginning in 1973, the WRD Retirees Newsletter more recently under the leadership of Jim Biesecker and Dotty West has grown to its present the 24 pages. For some recent issues, the newsletter has contained a supplement of up to 8 pages that contains articles and reminiscences by members. The newsletter itself contains a message from the current President, news about retirements, a necrology, and photographs from meetings of local or state retirees groups. Before and after the biennial reunions it contains information about the reunion and a discussion about and photographs from the reunion. Probably the most important and most popular feature is the "News of Retirees" section when current members share information about their activities and lives.

The first of the biennial reunions was held in 1982 at the National Center in Reston, VA. It wasn't called a reunion that year but instead was called a Founding Day event. It was so well received that it was proposed that reunions be held on even years in the future. This has been the case ever since. At the time, WRD had four regions and it was proposed and accepted that the reunions rotate between the four regions. This has been the case ever since. In consultation with members from the region whose turn it will be to host the next reunion, the current President selects a location and a chairperson. The chairperson assembles a committee of local retirees to put together the reunion. The reunions are usually held at a hotel in the city in which the reunion is located.

In recent years, the average reunion attendance of members and spouses has approached or exceeded 150 attendees. Typically the reunions have begun on a Thursday night with an opening reception. On Friday morning, a business meeting is held, presided over by the current President. Following remarks by the President, and the reading of a necrology, there often is a presentation by a representative from Headquarters about what is going on in water in the USGS and often a technical presentation by someone from the region where the meeting is being held. Then the fun begins. Friday afternoon and all day Saturday are reserved for field trips both to water-related sites in or around the reunion city or to local attractions, for example, a brewery tour. A golf outing is usually organized for those members who would like to play. The field trips are the highlights of the reunions. There are usually 7 or 8 trips to choose from. The reunions conclude on Saturday night with the gala banquet. At the banquet, the committee members are recognized as are those persons attending a reunion for the first time. In the case of some of the more recent reunions, follow-up activities such as a cruise or a train trip have been organized. While the Thursday through Saturday schedule has been typical for the last several reunions, ight now it looks as if the reunion planned in Nashville in 2016 will begin earlier in the week to take advantage of lower hotel rates. The reunions are great fun and the amount of reminiscing is truly amazing. Locations of the past reunions are given in Appendix B.

WRD Retirees in 2015 is in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year of existence. As stated earlier, the membership of the organization peaked around 2010 and has declined slightly since. We are losing members at a slightly higher rate than we are gaining new members. There probably are several reasons for this but probably a principal reason is that the WRD that we all spent our time working for no longer exists. A USGS reorganization several years ago eliminated the Divisions that were in existence for more than 50 years. Water remains one of the six science mission areas of USGS but the lines are not as distinctly drawn between the areas as they were when water was a 'Division'. This together with other decisions made within USGS during the last 20 years may have changed the dynamic that existed during the heyday of WRD when most

of those of us working then looked upon WRD as sort of our extended or second family. The present slate of WRD Retiree officers is working diligently to look for ways to reverse the decline.

**Appendix A.** Presidents of the WRD Retirees Organization

(Note that Presidents serve for a two year term beginning in the even year)

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Name</u>             |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1976-1977    | E. L. "Roy" Hendricks   |
| 1976-1979    | Warren S. Daniels       |
| 1980-1981    | Walton H. Durum         |
| 1982-1983    | O. Milton Hackett       |
| 1984-1985    | Joseph S. Cragwall, Jr. |
| 1986-1987    | Gerald Meyer            |
| 1988-1989    | Robert M. Beall         |
| 1990-1991    | Russell H. Langford     |
| 1992-1993    | Porter E. Ward          |
| 1994-1995    | Thomas J. Buchanan      |
| 1996-1997    | Donald M. Thomas        |
| 1998-1999    | William B. Mann, IV     |
| 2000-2001    | Robert Schoen           |
| 2002-2003    | Thomas H. Yorke         |
| 2004-2005    | James F. Blakey         |
| 2006-2007    | James E. Biesecker      |
| 2008-2009    | Richard A. Engberg      |
| 2010-2011    | Herbert J. Frieberger   |
| 2012-2013    | Clarence W. Anderson    |
| 2014-2015    | Ethan T. Smith          |

**Appendix B.** Locations of WRD Retirees Organizations Reunions

(Note the Reunions are held every two years on even years)

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Location</u>   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1982         | Reston, VA        |
| 1984         | Denver, CO        |
| 1986         | Baton Rouge, LA   |
| 1988         | Seattle, WA       |
| 1990         | Orlando, FL       |
| 1992         | Williamsburg, VA  |
| 1994         | Albuquerque, NM   |
| 1996         | Pacific Grove, CA |
| 1998         | Lancaster, PA     |
| 2000         | Atlanta, GA       |
| 2002         | San Antonio, TX   |
| 2004         | Portland, OR      |
| 2006         | Madison, WI       |
| 2008         | Clearwater, FL    |
| 2010         | Denver, CO        |
| 2012         | Boise, ID         |
| 2014         | Portland, ME      |
| 2016         | Nashville, TN     |

## HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Dear WRD Retirees':

I am very thrilled to have received the WRD Retirees' Hydrologic Technician Scholarship and would like to express my most sincere gratitude for your help in funding my academic goals. Thank you WRD Retirees' for your generosity in helping me to attain my academic and career goals. It is awards and recognition such as this that keep students striving for academic excellence. I look forward to continue working with the USGS and maybe one day joining the ranks of the now USGS Retirees Association.

Respectfully,

Keith Mecum

### **My Experience with the USGS Keith Mecum – dated August 28, 2015**

When I discovered the posting for Student Hydrologic Technician with the USGS, I described it as my dream job. From my first day at work till the day I am writing this, it has fallen nothing short of just that. On day one my supervisor Mike Nyman told me, "This is going to be the best job you will ever have." I still believe he is correct in making that statement. The USGS, and in particular the San Antonio, TX field office, has provided me with an unbeatable group of coworkers and endless opportunities to learn.

Work inevitably consumes much of our lives and there is nothing better than enjoying the work you do and those who accompany you in doing so. My coworkers at the San Antonio, TX field office have been a pleasure to work with for a few reasons. First, as an individual at the beginning of my career I have received a great deal of priceless mentoring from established professionals. Secondly, someone is always willing to lend an ear whether work related or otherwise. Last and far from least is the overwhelming abundance of knowledge throughout the office just waiting to be obtained by anyone willing to learn.

During my time at the USGS, I have been given the opportunity to explore all aspects of hydrologic technician work and enjoy learning something new every day. For surface water, I have learned how to do discharge measurements using not only Flow Trackers, but also AA's and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP). In addition, I have helped install new gages allowing me to better understand how surface water sites operate. However, my focus lately has been with water quality and groundwater sites. I find water quality especially interesting due to the vast amount of monitoring equipment used in the field and the necessity to understand parameter relationships.

Also, in the aftermath of flooding in Wimberly, TX along the Blanco River, I participated in high water marking for use in indirect flood measurements. Seeing the devastation was a stark reminder of how the science we at the USGS do is instrumental in creating flood models aimed at avoiding casualties and loss of property.

I have greatly enjoyed my experience with and hope to continue working for the USGS after my student appointment has passed. If so, I am confident it will be a challenging and rewarding career.

**To:** Ethan Smith, the Scholarship Selection Committee, and the WRD Retirees  
Organization as a whole,

I am extremely pleased and grateful to accept the WRD Retirees' Hydrologic Technician Scholarship. Working for the California Water Science Center has been a life changing experience and the skills and knowledge I have attained in my year of employment has expanded my knowledge and expertise far beyond what the classroom could ever offer. I work with a remarkable and talented team here at the Santa Cruz Field Office and the attention to detail offered by these top notch data collectors far exceeds my expectations and I look forward greatly to a dream career with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The wide array of job duties required of a Hydrologic Technician have pulled so many of my skills and expertise together under one job title while keeping me interested by the ever changing fluvial environment. From the excitement of high flow measurements, to the relaxing low flow conditions, technical equipment troubleshooting, days of manual cross sectional clearing, and office days, the position of Hydrologic Technician offers a level of complexity that keeps me interested on a day to day basis.

The scholarship offered could not have come at a better time while I complete the toughest year of education at the University of California in Santa Cruz. This tough academic year, a senior capstone, and various other obligations that have taken me away from financial security and this contribution helps secure my expensive rent in Santa Cruz for another couple months. This allows me to focus on expanding my knowledge in the field and completing my last year of education in pursuit of my Bachelor of Science in Earth and Planetary Sciences at U.C. Santa Cruz.

Thank you again for the generous contribution towards my future, Sincerely,  
Devin Scott Minnich  
Student Hydrologic Technician Santa Cruz Field Office  
California Water Science

**American Water Resources Association (AWRA)  
Free Download**

**Applied Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Water Resources IMPACT  
Magazine | May 2015**

Guest Editors: **Richard A. Engberg** and **Carol R. Collier**

In 2012, the American Water Resources Association initiated a yearly award to recognize an outstanding water resources project in the United States that was conducted using IWRM. In 2014, 12 projects were nominated for the award.

The May 2015 issue of Water Resources IMPACT highlights 9 of these projects, all of which were excellent. The project described in the lead article, written by Ian Achimore of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, was judged the winner of the 2014 AWRA IWRM award.

- [Download May 2015 Water Resources IMPACT](#)

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association**

NARFE Ensures Misguided G Fund Proposal is Rejected by Congress  
<http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=3867>