

# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 181  
November 2018

*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

Dear Fellow USGS Retirees,

The 2018 reunion in the Twin Cities is history and we had a great time! It was good to catch up with old friends and to meet other retirees and their guests. Jeff Stoner has a detailed summary of the meeting in this newsletter. Jeff, and the Local Arrangements Committee, did the heavy lifting required to put an enjoyable and productive meeting together. They did a wonderful job and deserve our gratitude. In addition, our officers helped to make the reunion a productive meeting. Plans are underway for the next reunion which will be held in Arizona in the winter. Whether you attended the reunion, or not, I'd like to hear your comments about how to make the next reunion event more successful. We need your opinions! You can reach me at: [stark@usgs.gov](mailto:stark@usgs.gov).

I want to focus on a few highlights from the reunion. The banquet included two excellent presentations about USGS science programs. Deputy Director, Bill Werkheiser, had to cancel the trip due to Hurricane Florence. The Upper Midwest Science Center Director, John Walker, filled in by delivering Bill's presentation as well as giving his description of the local-science-center programs. Both are outlined, later, in this volume. Also, at the banquet, we paid tribute to those members who have passed. The list, sadly, is long. You can review it later in this newsletter. We also had the great privilege of honoring three of our members. The George Ferguson Award (Originally WRD Retirees Lifetime Award) was presented to Merilee Bennett, Andy Anderson, and Tom Yorke. Those awards were well deserved. We also honored the senior member attending the reunion. That honor went to Hal Langford who is 92 years young! Hal attended the meeting with his sons and honored us by addressing those at the banquet.

A word about the George Ferguson Award. This award, under the name WRD Retirees Service Award, has been a long-standing way to honor individuals who have contributed to the retiree's organization. It was renamed this year to honor George Ferguson who was the individual most instrumental in starting this organization. George who had a 44-year career with USGS, chaired a committee in 1973 that proposed starting this organization. He led the organization from 1973 to 1975 and was newsletter editor until 1987. He remained an active member until his passing in 2008 at age 102,

We also discussed goals and the future of the organization. Our reunion attendance was down, as has been the trend. There also is a downward trend in membership numbers. We discussed the need to do a better job of attracting new members by telling recent retirees why they should join. Finally, we need to reach out to all former employees of "Water" as well as those who worked in other areas of the USGS. We agreed to make a greater effort of reaching out to newly-retrieved employees. We now have an Affiliate Member status. Affiliate members will be active employees who can work with our state representatives by being our eyes and ears in each of the science centers. We will ask them to promote our organization, and to let us know who is retiring, and sadly, who has passed. We also discussed the scholarship program. This is one of the most important things that we do. We have reinvigorated the program, and the process, and plan to continue to support talented student employee. This year we presented five scholarships

As always, I need to thank the Board members and volunteers for all that they do to support this organization. Herb Freiburger has helped us by reinvigorating the service award process through the new George Ferguson Award. Our organization is limited only by the number of volunteers involved. Please let me know if you would like to help. **We have work that needs to be done!**

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Thanks for your support of this organization. Please consider making your plans to attend the reunion. I hope to see you there!



Jim Stark (stark@usgs.gov)

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## Nineteenth USGS Retirees' Reunion, Twin Cities of Minnesota

### Wrap-up

By Jeff Stoner

Retirees, spouses, partners, families, current USGS employees and volunteers from 21 states attended the Reunion. To date, comments received from the attendees have been positive. The major negative of the Reunion was a lower attendance than previous Reunions. Despite much help from the Organization Officers to call several members to encourage attendance, the Local Arrangements Committee anticipated this in planning for the minimum number of guaranteed hotel rooms. Ultimately the total event ended in the black fiscally and we also gained \$174 toward the Retirees' Scholarship program through sales of extra Belgium glasses.

The hotel accommodations and its support to the Reunion activities presented excellent food and a great forum, including a local history museum of Northwest-Orient Airlines near the Thursday evening **Reception**.

The Friday morning **Business Meeting** highlighted several topics and decisions:

Even though this was his first Reunion, President Jim Stark did a great job of bringing humor, with the assistance of Mark Anderson's tasteful Ole and Lena stories—all true, and serious topics to the Retiree Members. Jeff Stoner reviewed the logistics of the two optional tours and how to survive the "language of" Scandihoovian Minnesota culture.



Many of the Organizational Officers presented updates and new ideas for the remainder of the meeting:

- Newsletter: Merilee
- Directory: Kate and Merilee
- Archives: Dick and Kate
- Financial update- Cathy
- Scholarships: Cathy and Herb
- Ferguson Awards: (goals/process) Herb and Dick
- Membership update- Dick and Pete
- Membership Goals and Affiliate Reps: Pete and Dick
- State, Regional, Affiliate Reps: Ken and Pete
- Short and long-term goals– suggestions: Jim
- Future reunion-Pete and Mark Anderson:

A decision was made by the members present to promote the Retiree's Organization through Affiliate membership. This pilot program would include any employee connected to USGS people, such as Interior, other disciplines, and cooperators.

The Friday afternoon **River Cruise Tour** occurred during unseasonably warm weather (in the mid-80s) and was joined by guide Tim Cowdery from the Upper Midwest Science Center. Tim provided the 79 participants with handouts and a description of the basic geology and hydrology of the area crossed by the bus ride to the boat launch in the oldest city in Minnesota, Stillwater. He also explained the physical setting of the St. Croix River during the river cruise. As an Italian lunch was served, the boat crossed under the relatively new LEGO-like constructed bridge with "tuning-fork piers. On Saturday morning, the **St. Paul Caves and Gangster Tour** was

very well received by the 50 participants according to numerous positive comments. Our guide, a local actress, played well the part of “Babe” Delaney, an actual person of the gangster history in St. Paul during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Seeing the hangout locations, like the caves in the Ordovician St. Peter Sandstone and buildings around St. Paul, gave life to a not-so-saintly and corrupt time in the local history.

President, Jim Stark, welcomed the participants at the Saturday-evening **Banquet**.

- Necrology report was read by Herb Freiberger, Jim Blakey, and Janice Ward of Retiree members, spouses and non-members reflected in the quarterly newsletters since the last Reunion. Sadly, the list was too long. (reference page 15)
- George Ferguson Service Awards: Dick Engberg, Jim Stark presented to:
  - Merilee Bennett,
  - Andy Anderson, and
  - Tom Yorke (not present, but noted that Al Condes presented to Tom earlier)
- Next Meeting: Pete Anttila and Mark Anderson somewhere in Arizona, probably mid- to late-February 2021

Also recognized among the attendees were the youngest Retiree, Susan Aragon-Long, the oldest Retiree, Hal Langford, the person who traveled the furthest, Gordy Nelson (AK), and the members who registered first for this reunion, Herb and Pat Freiberger.

Two excellent presentations were given about USGS science programs. Deputy Director, Bill Werkheiser, had to cancel the trip to the reunion due to urgent responsibilities related to the Florence Hurricane. Upper Midwest Science Center Director, John Walker, filled in with excellent form to talk about Bill’s presentation (slide show) as well as his own description of the local-science-center programs outlined below.

### **Upper Midwest Science Center Programs (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) by SC Director John Walker**

Data Capabilities:

- Stream and Lake quantity & quality monitoring
- Groundwater quantity & quality monitoring
- Lake monitoring
- Innovative instrumentation and ancillary data collection at gaging stations

Science Capabilities:

- Aquatic Contaminants
- Environmental Microbiology
- Groundwater Characterization
- Groundwater & Watershed Modeling
- Integrated Ecosystem Studies
- Rivers & Coastal Processes
- Water Quality Assessments
- Water Quality Networks

Specialized Capabilities:

- USGS Mercury Research Lab
- Microbial Labs
- TC Chamberlin Modeling Center
- Web Informatics & Mapping

### **USGS Recent Science Activities by John Walker using Deputy Director Bill Werkheiser’s presentation**

- **2017 hurricane season** (Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, and Nate)—472 sensors and 2,857 hi-water markings
- **Kilauea volcano**—unprecedented earthquake activity (5,000) and use of unmanned aircraft systems to monitor lava flow
- **2018 fire season**—6,138,156 acres burned in 41,733 fires; CA and CO debris flow damages, peak stream flows expected to increase

- **Initiated Integrated Drought Science**—to better understand impact in headwaters and ecosystems
- **Invasive species**
- **Critical minerals**—computing, national defense needs
- **Stream-gage network (8,200)**—provide infrastructure for other sensors, such as 100 nitrate across USA. Continued enhancements with ADCPs, radar, videos, and drones.
- **Landsat 9 (satellite imagery)**—on schedule to launch December 2020; critical timing to replace Landsat 7 prior to it loosing last fuel

The total Reunion attendance was small, but those attending seemed to have good time and were happy to exchange remembrances of past events.

Photographs taken at the Reunion are copied to the Reunion 2018 Web site by major event: <http://wrdretirees.org/Reunion2018/index.html> You may find multiple panels of photos as you scroll to bottom of each event panel. Thanks to Ken Lanfear for posting these and for managing the Reunion Web site for the past 20 months. A special thanks to George Garklavs and Lee Case for their excellent photographs taken throughout the reunion events. Barbara Goolsby and Janice Ward also contributed nice pictures to the list. Thanks also to several folks who volunteered to help chaperone the Hospitality suite.

Photographers George Garklavs and Lee Case:



Lastly, but not least, a successful reunion is dependent upon a dedicated and productive Local Arrangement Committee (LAC). The 19th Reunion LAC members were outstanding. **Back row:** Lee Case (CO), Jim Stark (MN), Gregg Wiche (ND), Marv Sherrill (WI), Jeff & Linda Stoner (MN), Judy and Ken Lindskov (SD). **Front row:** Mark Have (MN), Lan Tornes (MN), Rosann Sherrill (WI), Pat Hammond (NV), and Pete Anttila (TN). **Pictured to right:** Roger Lee (TX).

**Registration Desk  
September 13, 2018**



Judy Lindskov, Dede Lee, & Linda Stoner running desk. Pat Hammond checking in Clarence Anderson (Rosann Sherrill also helped, not pictured)

**Icebreaker Reception where many revisited old times**



Al Arntson, Lee & Beth Trotta



Bob Burchett, Harry McWreath, & Dick Bow



Steve & Hal Langford, Cathy Hill, Paula and Jim Blakey



George Garklavs in NW Orient Airlines Museum



Jancie Ward, Karen & David Lystrom



June Thormodsgard, Kate Flynn, Harry McWreath & Susan Argon-Long

**Hospitality Suite**



Steve, Hal, and Dave Langford



Mary Jean & Derrill Cowing, Gordy Nelson



Kate Flynn & Merilee Bennett



Roger Lee, Bill & Linda Carswell



Ruthie Yeager, Terry Dulaney, & Derrill Cowing

**Friday afternoon Cruise on the St. Croix River, near Stillwater, MN  
September 14, 2018**



Loading bus 2 from hotel



Some excited for bus ride, others not-so-much...



Tim Cowdery, USGS  
Hydrogeologist



Boarding the Jubilee II



Captain and hostess



Getting underway on St. Croix River



Stillwater Marina



We were not alone



We were not alone



Settling in for cruise



Time for lunch



Old bridge being repaired for pedestrians and bicyclers only



New "LEGOS-constructed" bridge with "tuning-fork" piers.



Harry McWreath and Dave Click



Dan Fitzpatrick, Gregg Wiche, Mark and Carla Anderson, and Sandra Wiche



L to R: Barbara Goolsby, Bob Burchett, Jim & Paula Blakey, Dick Engberg, and Don Goolsby

**Saturday morning St. Paul caves and gangster tour  
September 15, 2018**



Gathering for the Wabasha Caves tour with some odd passion for Snoopy?



“Babe” (Helen Delaney), a gangster Moll and **our guide** was “the best actress” at telling the tale of the gangsters of St. Paul—Notorious persons who have walked these corridors inside the caves were: Doc Barker, Babyface Nelson, Dapper Dan, John Dillinger, Alvin “Creepy” Karpis, and Ma Barker, to name a few.



“Babe” explaining adventures of old restaurant, fireplace with ‘bullet dents,’ and bar (still used) in the caves



Telling the story of Joseph Hamm kidnapping (find beer bear in front of house?)



Other St. Paul sites. Which one is Capital?



Oldest USGS stream gage in Minnesota is on Mississippi River at St. Paul

September 15, 2018



President Jim Stark



LAC Chair Jeff Stoner



Upper Midwest Science Center  
Director John Walker

**George Ferguson Service Awards:**



Clarence Anderson

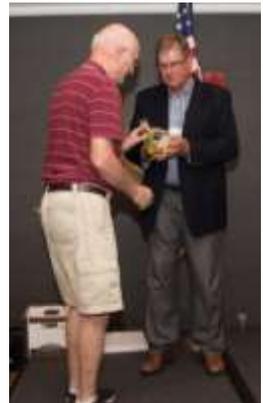


Merilee Bennett





**NOTE:** Tom Yorke was not able to attend the Reunion so the George Ferguson Award for service to the Retirees by Vice President, Al Condes in Reston, VA



Hal Langford for most experienced at meeting, then tells a story about ducks under cabeway. Herb Frieberger for first to register for Reunion and Gordy Nelson for furthest travel.



Barbara Goolsby gave permission to show a few of her photos from the Mall of America visit with Don:



Views from hotel and Mall of America; known as the Nation's largest mall. (photos by Barbara Goolsby)



"Nickelodeon Universe" in Mall of America. Classic Merry-go-Round carousel and roller coaster



Aquarium below level 1

**NECROLOGY  
2017-2018**

This list includes the names by membership status: (YY) = retiree's year of retirement, (A) = affiliates, (W) = widow of retiree, (SP) = spouses of members and (NM) = non-members. Some names reflected below were included in this edition of the USGS Retirees Directory because information about their death was received since the publication of the Forty-Third Edition.

Aiken, George	(NM)	07 Dec 2016
Angelo, Gerald 'Jerry'	(NM)	24 Feb 2017
Arnold, Charlotte J.	(NM)	24 Apr 2018
Aaron, John	(NM)	20 Nov 2017
Ault, Madalene K.	(NM)	24 Jun 2017
Averett, Victoria 'Vicki' (Mrs. Robert)	(W)	18 Aug 2017
Bailey, James F. 'Jim'	(85)	17 Jun 2018
Baker, Ernie	(NM)	20 Aug 2017
Beauchemin, Paul R.	(NM)	5 Nov 2015
Benson, Anna (Mrs. Clark H.)	(W)	27 Jan 2018
Berkstresser Jr., Charles F. 'Chuck'	(73)	22 Sep 2017
Bettendorf, Justin A. 'Bud'	(80)	25 Mar 2017
Bisset, Anne F.	(86)	30 Apr 2018
Blazs, Robert 'Bob'	(10)	04 Dec 2017
Bohn, James D.	(NM)	11 Mar 2018
Bolke, Edward L.	(91)	07 Aug 2017
Bonham, Harriet C. (Mrs. Wilson G.)	(W)	23 May 2017
Brennan, Elaine (Mrs. Robert)	(W)	24 Mar 2017
Bricker, Bonnie Jean	(NM)	19 Nov 2017
Callender, Edward 'Ted' (Gail Mallard)	(SP)	07 Oct 2017
Campbell, Wesley L. 'Wes'	(NM)	15 Jun 2018
Cochran, Betty Jean	(90)	18 July 2017
Cohn, Timothy A. 'Tim'	(A)	20 Feb 2017
Condes, Mary (Mr. Alberto 'Al')	(SP)	10 Mar 2018
Conomos, T. John	(01)	09 Aug 2017
Conrads, Paul	(NM)	02 Dec 2017
Cornelius, Charles E. 'Charley'	(NM)	01 Jan 2017
Craig, James Dee 'Jim'	(94)	18 Apr 2016
Criner, Lida (Mrs. James H.)	(W)	May 2017
Culbertson, James K. 'Jim'	(82)	08 Dec 2017
Cunningham, Charles G. 'Skip'	(NM)	02 Jan 2017
Curtis, Martha P. (Mrs. G. Wayne)	(W)	12 Oct 2016
DeHerrera, Chris (Carole)	(SP)	02 Nov 2017
Dudley, William W. 'Bill'	(03)	15 Nov 2017
Duncan, A. C. 'Jerry'	(95)	14 Oct 2018
Edwards, Fayne Derward 'Der'	(90)	09 Dec 2017
Ericson, Donald W.	(85)	27 Oct 2014
Ericson, Jessie	(SP)	29 Jan 2013
Frederick, Doyle G.	(NM)	29 Apr 2017
Galyean, Kenneth C.	(11)	22 Apr 2017
Getzen, Rufus T.	(NM)	01 Apr 2017
Grossman, Herbert M.	(94)	27 Apr 2017
Haeni, F. Peter 'Pete'	(01)	26 Nov 2017
Hamamoto, Shirley A.	(90)	29 Aug 2017
Hansen, Bruce P.	(05)	23 Mar 2018
Hargadine, Dirk A.	(NM)	03 Jan 2017
Harr, Mrs. C. Albert 'Evelyn'	(W)	20 Dec 2005
Hartley, Susan L. 'Sue'	(NM)	10 Jun 2017
Heisel, James 'Jim'	(NM)	09 Aug 2017
Hiner, Sharon	(SP)	20 Mar 2017
Hines, Marion S.	(79)	13 Dec 2017
Hite, Barbara	(NM)	07 May 2017
Hoy, Carol M.	(95)	07 Jun 2017
Hubbard, Larry L.	(90)	11 Jun 2018
Hull, Stephen H. 'Steve'	(05)	10 Jul 2018
Huntzinger, Thomas L. 'Tom'	(97)	27 Jan 2017

Hutchinson, Craig B.	(98)	25 Dec 2017
Hutchinson, Marcella M. 'Marcy'	(SP)	10 Jan 2018
Jeffery, Juanita J. (Mrs. Horace G.)	(SP)	17 Jan 2015
Jensen, Verda C. (Mrs. Leon J.)	(W)	15 Jul 2011
Johnson, Brenda C.	(NM)	23 Jun 2018
Johnson, Royce E.	(11)	2 May 2018
Jones, Suzanne L. (Mrs. Digger)	(W)	11 Jul 2016
Jordan, Donald G.	(84)	11 May 2018
Kammerer, Phil A.	(NM)	15 Apr 2017
Klingler, Jesse H.	(93)	15 Jul 2017
Kraus, Richard L. 'Dick'	(NM)	22 Dec 2017
Kupfer, Romaine F. (Mrs. Donald)	(NM)	18 Apr 2017
Lang, Solomon M. 'Sol'	(85)	5 Jan 2016
Lawrence, Muriel A. (Mrs. Carl L.)	(W)	5 Jul 2016
LeRoux, Edmund F. 'Ed'	(85)	16 Nov 2016
Mann, William B. 'Bill'	(94)	25 Aug 2018
Marzolf, G. Richard 'Dick'	(NM)	01 Feb 2018
McCormack, Howard F.	(03)	28 Apr 2016
McKenzie, Connie (Mr. Stuart W.)	(W)	12 Jun 2017
Meyer, Gerald 'Gerry'	(80)	11 Dec 2016
Molenaar, Colleen (Mrs. Dee)	(SP)	21 Feb 2017
Moore, John E.	(89)	06 Jan 2018
Moran, Robert E. 'Bob'	(NM)	15 May 2017
Morningstar, Robert L.	(NM)	19 Sep 2017
Niles, Kenneth B. 'Ken' (Dorothy J. 'Dot')	(SP)	06 Jan 2017
Osterkamp, Linda K. (Mr. Waite R.)	(SP)	22 Mar 2017
Parks, Donald G. 'Don'	(NM)	03 Mar 2016
Parker, Garald G. 'Gerry'	(92)	10 Nov 2017
Pascale, Janet B. (Mrs. Jerry)	(SP)	8 Jun 2018
Perkins, Vivienne (Mrs. John McLean)	(SP)	04 Mar 2017
Pifer, Alice L.	(NM)	21 Nov 2017
Pogge, Ernest. C.	(NM)	Jan 2018
Rickert, Janet	(SP)	~2018
Rhodehamel, Edward C.	(80)	24 Aug 2017
Rosenshein, Joseph 'Joe'	(94)	21 Apr 2018
Rowe, Timothy G. 'Tim'	(12)	07 Feb 2017
Russell, Randy H.	(NM)	26 Aug 2018
Schneider, Lore	(W)	17 Sep 2017
Schumann, Herbert H.	(95)	16 Oct 2017
Scott, Arthur G. 'Pete'	(93)	11 Jul 2017
Sedam, Alan C.	(94)	13 Jul 2018
Skinner, Earl L.	(89)	04 Nov 2017
Smith, Eileen R.	(88)	12 Apr 2018
Smith, Evelyn V. (Mrs. Robert Smith)	(W)	08 May 2017
Solomon, Edward M. 'Ed' (Joyce)	(SP)	15 Jul 2017
Stewart, Norma Jean	(NM)	28 Aug 2018
Still, Patsy Jean	(90)	14 Sep 2016
Stone, Roy B.	(85)	29 Nov 2017
Thomsen, Bert. W.	(89)	15 Oct 2017
Tibbetts, Margery A.	(NM)	15 Jul 2018
Tibbitts, G. Chase	(84)	22 Oct 2009
Trask, Newell J.	(NM)	25 Sep 2017
Usher, Dave	(NM)	5 Sep 2017
Wade, Lewis V. 'Lew'	(08)	22 Apr 2018
Wagner, Patricia A. 'Pat'	(SP)	5 Aug 2018
Weber, Florence R.	(NM)	18 Jan 2018

## MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### NEW JERSEY RETIREE'S GATHERING August 2018



**Seated (L to R):** Victor Corcino, John Dudek, Walt Jones, and Mike DeLuca recently got together to talk about our times as hydrologic technicians at the New Jersey Water Science Center.

### RESTON RETIREES' LUNCHEON Reston, VA September 10, 2018



Luncheon talk by Charlie Mandeville, manager of the USGS Volcano Hazards Program. He spoke about the ongoing eruption of Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii.

**WASHINGTON RETIREES' PICNIC  
Gil and Marlene Bortleson's Home  
August 2018**



**Front -- Our hosts:** Marlene and Gil Bortleson

**Middle Row:** Karen Schurr, Lindy Packard, Sandy Williamson, Norm Dion and Kathleen Drost

**Back Row:** Rick Wagner, Joan Paulson, Tony Paulson, Frank Packard, Debbie Williamson, Ralph Embrey, Sandy Embrey and Brian Drost



Brian and Kathleen Drost



Frank and Lindy Packard

**NOTE:** The Bortlesons and the Williamsons alternate years hosting the picnic

*-Photos submitted by Norm Dion*

## RETIREMENTS



**Robert 'Bob' O. Brown** will retire after 30 years with the USGS in the Vermont Office of the New England Water Science Center on August 31, 2018. Bob started his career as a hydrologic technician in 1988 and has been the face of the USGS streamgaging program in Vermont ever since. His streamgaging and construction expertise directly led to the successful expansion of the streamgaging program in the Lake Champlain Basin in 1990, a lasting legacy that continues to aid in ongoing efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to the lake. Through the years Bob had the opportunity to assist with collecting and processing water samples as part of the NAWQA program, established short-term streamgaging networks for the evaluation of BMP's in the Missisquoi River Basin, and made over 3,000 streamflow measurements to validate the stage-discharge relation at sites in New England. Bob was instrumental in passing on his streamgaging knowledge by routinely training newer hydrologic technicians and local college and high school students over the years. Some of Bob's most memorable experiences occurred while responding to flood events in Vermont, flagging high-water marks following the 1992 ice jam flood in Montpelier and across much of Vermont following the devastation and extreme flows from Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Bob and his partner in crime in Vermont, Greg Hilgendorf, were a force to reckon with! Bob and his wife Sue will head down to southern Arizona in late October where they will reside part of the year in addition to maintaining their residence in northern Vermont. His willingness to help anyone who needed a hand and his positive attitude will be missed.



**Mike Carlson** is retiring after 33 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. Mike is retiring from the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center. In 1981, Mike received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska, Kearney, NE and started his career as a hydrologic technician at the Kansas Water Science Center in 1985. In Kansas, Mike collected water quality samples for the Lower Kansas Basin NAWQA project which was one of the three original NAWQA studies. Mike also performed many high-flow measurements during the 1993 mid-west flooding and participated in collecting sediment cores from Kansas lakes. In 2001, Mike brought his QW/SW expertise to the New Mexico Water Science Center, where Mike took on numerous surface-water field runs and still found time to assist in QW sample collection for numerous projects. One of Mike's highlights in NMWSC was making high-flow measurements on the Pecos River in 2013. Mike has sampled almost the entire NWQL Catalog throughout his career. Mike's expertise and advice will be sorely missed within the NMWSC, where he trained newer hydrologic technicians in SW and QW field methods. Mike was instrumental in passing on his streamgaging knowledge by routinely training tribal and state partners as well as newer hydrologic technicians. Not only has Mike chased floods, but he has also participated in numerous surveys for indirect measurements. Those of us that have worked with Mike, will miss his positive attitude and his willingness to help anyone who needed a hand. When Mike finally hangs up his head set, he plans on spending more time with his family and travelling to sport car races.

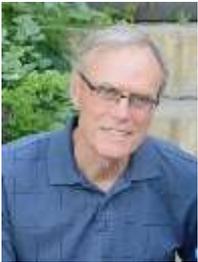
**Donna Damrau**, retired on September 30, 2018 from the National Water Quality Laboratory, Lakewood, CO. After completing her degree in chemistry at the University of Northern Colorado, Donna joined the NWQL in 1985 to work in the inorganic Atomic Absorption and Majors sections. For the next 6 years, she learned and ran many methods including trace metals, Low Ionic Strength, graphite furnace AA, Inductively Coupled Plasma and many others. Donna also worked in the Nutrients unit, performing a wide range of analyses. In the early to mid-90's, Donna detailed as acting supervisor in the Nutrients and Plasma units. During this time, she also conducted method development research in ICP, low level silver, ROE/SUSO, mercury by AF and microwave digestion for mercury. In 1997 she became the lead chemist for the Plasma unit, then became the supervisor for the Plasma unit in 2001. In 2002, Donna became the supervisor of the Physical Properties unit, then became the Business Development Team Chief in 2005. In 2011, Donna became the supervisor for Metals/Carbon, then moved to the QAS group in 2016 to work in contract management for the DODESP program. In 1989, Donna joined the ASTM group D-19 on Water as a task group chairman for alkalinity and acidity, conducting method validation for those analytes. She held various Subcommittee offices: D-19.05 Secretary, D19.05 Vice-Chair, and D19.05 Chair. Donna have also held the Committee offices of Secretary, Assistance Secretary, and was been head of the Nominations/Award Committee. Throughout the years, Donna received several awards, including: Standards Development Award (1994), Outstanding Service Award (2000), Award of Merit (2004 – ASTM

Highest Award), Award of Appreciation (2011), and Max Hecht Award (2011 – D19 Highest Award). As you can see from her work history, Donna has been a key leader at the NWQL, and has made a huge impact on the lab. She will be missed for her extensive knowledge, strong work ethic and perpetual smile. Donna and Jim plan on extensive travel around the world and within the United States for the next few years.

*-Jeff McCoy, Chief, NWQL*

**Greg Fuhrer** retired from the USGS on May 1, 2018. Greg was a long-time employee of the ORWSC. His retirement was unheralded, and perhaps not widely known. Because of his long service, his contributions to science, and his consistent positive impact on his peers, I am taking this opportunity to recognize Greg's contributions. Greg Fuhrer is an Oregon native. His family relocated here in the 40's, drawn to Oregon and Mt. Hood. Greg graduated from Central Catholic High School and earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Portland. In that time, Greg worked at the Pepsi bottling plant in Portland to put himself through school, rising to the "Night Leader" position. A solid work ethic and determination to succeed have always been among Greg's strengths. Greg came to work at the USGS Oregon District Office in 1980 as a GS 4 Hydrologic Field Assistant. He became a permanent employee less than a year later. Greg rose through the ranks and distinguished himself as a thorough, careful scientist, a good communicator, and a great person to work with. Greg appreciates quality and has a very clear vision of the right way to do things. That he has a cherry 1968 Camaro SS on a lift in his garage speaks volumes about this sensibility. Greg began working on the NAWQA program when it first emerged in 1988 in the Yakima Basin. Greg is proud of his work on water quality and toxics in the Columbia Basin and advocating for the Columbia River Treaty to include ecosystem-based function on a par with hydropower and flood control. Greg was deeply involved with the Columbia River Federal Caucus, which he chaired for one year. His ability to listen and lead while generating trust and engagement raised the profile of the USGS and led to many important scientific programs in the Oregon Water Science Center. Greg became the Associate Director of the Oregon Water Science Center in 2010. In that role, he was a visionary force, a public face of the Center, and a reliable team mate on the Center's Management Staff. His leadership was organic, arising from his wonderfully warm personality; people just wanted to work with Greg. He helped the Center prosper in uncertain times and cemented the USGS reputation for integrity and quality science. The Center continues to thrive, in no small part because of Greg's relationship-building with partners, his mentoring of other leaders, and his careful attention to the USGS Mission. All of us miss his willingness to help, his prodigious work output, and his caring disposition. Enjoy your well-earned retirement, Greg!

*-- James D. (Dar) Crammond, Director  
USGS Oregon Water Science Center*



**Dave Holtschlag:** I retired on September 30, 2018 after 42 years of service to the USGS at the Lansing, Michigan Office. I joined the USGS in October 1976 after receiving a bachelor's degree in Forestry from the University of Missouri (1974), a master's degree in Forest Hydrology from the University of Minnesota (1976), and a master's degree in System Science from Michigan State University (1990). My first supervisor, Bob Knutilla, taught me the meaning of the Finnish term SISU, which has been foundational throughout my career. Also, early in my career, Ron LeuVoy, a Michigan hydrotech, taught me elements of winter streamgaging, and provided a formative initiation to cold-water swimming in waders, and the art of recovering from hypothermia. Mid-career, the late Paul Klimek, another Michigan hydrotech, taught my son Joe, who was volunteering for the USGS during a winter break from college, how to streamgage. Joe, who was not accustomed to the rigors of winter streamgaging, found that the work was both exhilarating and exhausting, and that after work, Paul's home-brewed beer was especially refreshing. The highlight of my work with the USGS was developing a hydrodynamic model of the St. Clair-Detroit River waterway, which is a magnificent body of water. St. Clair River passes all the waters from Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron to Lake Erie and beyond. I especially appreciate the help of my colleagues, Don James, who helped me map velocities in the blue waters of St. Clair and Detroit Rivers with ADCP, and Steve Aichele, who helped me design GPS-equipped drifting buoys. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of scientists and crews from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in particular John Koschik, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Environment Canada. More recently, I am thankful for the ability to participate in the work of the IWS NAWQA team, led by Paul Capel, and the FHWA study of trends in annual peak flows, led by Stacey Archfield. I would like to thank all my USGS colleagues for their interest, ideas,

support, and challenges, my co-authors, reviewers, editors, illustrators, IT personal, various officials and managers, and the American tax payers who sacrificed to make the work possible. I look forward to seeing the continuing contribution of some of my young colleagues including Pamela and Alex.



**Nathan Myers**, Hydrologist, retired from his position as the Chief Scientist and Groundwater Specialist at the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center in September 2018. Nathan joined the USGS in 1987 as a Volunteer for Science in the Kansas District. As a volunteer, Nathan assisted Tim Spruill in groundwater investigations of a chemical plant in Kansas City and a petrochemical hazardous waste site near Wichita, KS – a harbinger of things to come. After about a year of volunteer work, and a short stint as a contract employee, Nathan was hired as a GS-11 Hydrologist in July 1988 thanks to the concerted efforts of John Helgesen, John

Stamer, and Tom Huntzinger. Nathan's first few projects, groundwater assessments of 5 county landfills in Kansas, were a delightful introduction to well drilling, surveying, and groundwater hydrology and chemistry. During the hot festering days of Kansas summertime, Nathan developed a fine appreciation of the olfactory tactility of landfills and the associated industrial ambience. After the landfill projects, Nathan took a step up and began working on a new version of the Equus Beds groundwater flow model first developed by Joe Spinazola. More modeling projects soon followed: two models simulating the effects of well-field pumping on streamflow – one at Junction City, KS and the other at Manhattan, KS. After completion of these models, and after a brief 120-day stint (which became 11 months) as acting Studies Chief and leader of the TQM (Total Quality Management) effort for the Kansas District, Nathan began working on projects for the Department of Defense at Ft Riley, KS. Ft Riley projects included development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the Post, installation and sampling of monitoring wells near an inactive landfill, production of many quarterly administrative water-quality reports, and development of a groundwater flow model for the portion of the Kansas River Valley occupied by Ft Riley. (There seems to be a pattern here... landfills then modeling...) During his last few years in Kansas Nathan served as the District's Groundwater Specialist. In July 2000, Nathan was able to fulfill his long-held dream of living and working in the western U.S. by accepting a position as a Studies Section supervisor in the New Mexico District in Albuquerque, NM. Moving to New Mexico, Nathan and his family looked like a herd of gypsies with an old ford van pulling a piled-high trailer, 2 children, 2 dogs, an amazon parrot, and an aquarium full of snails. Once in New Mexico, Nathan supervised a diverse team of technicians and hydrologists whose projects included work at Cannon Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range, Questa Mine, the Sacramento Mountains, and Lee Acres Landfill near Farmington, NM (landfills again!?). During his tenure as a Studies Section supervisor, Project Chiefs under Nathan's direction executed 39 projects and published 50 reports. After 13 years of way too much fun as a supervisor, Nathan relinquished his supervisory duties and became the half-time Groundwater Specialist for the New Mexico Water Science Center. The rest of his time was occupied with developing and managing the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel-plume project, which probably included a landfill but for sure included a groundwater flow model. Funny how things seem to repeat. Over the years, Nathan has enjoyed seeing new employees grow into their roles and bloom into experienced and knowledgeable technicians and scientists and has observed that success is very much within the control of each of us. Nathan enjoyed working with the fine people of the USGS and he wishes them well into the future.

**Callie Oblinger** retired in August 2018. Callie received a BS at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a Master of Science degree at the University of Michigan. She started as a hydrologist with the USGS in Columbus, Ohio in 1980 where she worked on abandoned strip-mine projects, river water-quality assessments, and the Colorado-Ohio pilot to assess the effectiveness of combining data from multiple sources to answer regional water-quality questions. She moved to Raleigh, NC after 12 years in Ohio and became the Center Water-Quality Specialist and led the long-term Triangle Area water-quality assessment project. In 2000, when Gary Pederson retired, she stepped into the Regional Water-Quality Specialist position in the Southeastern Region. Callie moved to Reston in 2009. By then, the Water Mission Area (WMA) had reorganized and the Water Regions no longer existed. She became the Regional (and later WMA) Water-Quality Specialist for the new Eastern Region and part of the MWA Regions. Callie interacted and advised staff from many water offices of the USGS throughout her years. We will all miss her knowledge, advice, and respect she brought to us all. Callie's husband, Jerad Bales, retired from the USGS, and continues as the Executive Director of the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Studies, Inc.

## ROBERT 'BOB' M. HIRSCH RETIREMENT



*(Pictured: Robert Mason presenting Bob, with his wife Gretchen, a plaque from the USGS Hydro Acoustics Work Group, showing the electronic workings of an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler)*

After 42-years with the U.S. Geological Survey serving the water community as a scientist, as a science leader, and as a mentor, Bob retired on September 30, 2018.

From 1994 – 2008, Bob served as the Chief Hydrologist of the U.S. Geological Survey, overseeing all water programs for the USGS. He shaped USGS water science in many ways while in this role. Notable examples include his push for the agency to embrace new methods for delivering data to the public and his role in developing the National Water Quality Assessment Program and the National Streamflow Information Program. He served as the co-chair of the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Science and Technology Council from 2003-2010, providing a strong voice in articulating priorities for water science and technology across all federal agencies. Other leadership positions that Bob has held include Chief, Branch of Systems Analysis (1980-1987), Staff Assistant to the Secretary of Water and Science, Dept. of Interior (1987-1988), Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research and External Coordination (1988-1993), and Acting Director (1993-1994).

Earlier in his career, and for the last 10 years, Bob has worked as a research hydrologist, publishing many influential papers bringing statistical rigor to the analysis of hydrologic data and developing methods that are widely used in the hydrologic community. He has studied topics as varied as the potential effects of climate change on water resources, changing levels of water quality constituents in the Nation's waterways, and flood hazards. He has served on multiple National Academies panels to bring science to bear on pressing water management questions.

Throughout his career, Bob has been an outstanding science communicator, speaking to scientific audiences and the public about the societal relevance of hydrologic research and monitoring. Bob has also trained and mentored many hydrologists, through personal interaction, by serving as an instructor for training classes, and as a co-author of the widely used textbook *Statistical Methods in Water Resources*.

Bob has been recognized for his achievements, including with the 2006 William C. Ackerman Medal for Excellence in Water Management from the AWRA, the 2009 USGS Eugene Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Communications, and a 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Bob has been honored by the Department of the Interior with the Distinguished Service Award and has twice been recognized with a Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. An award that was particularly meaningful to Bob was being selected to give the Walter B. Langbein Lecture at the American Geophysical Union Fall meeting in 2017. Bob knew and worked with Walter Langbein when Bob was starting his career and Walter was still around as a scientist emeritus.

Bob will continue to be involved with the USGS as an emeritus, continuing to collaborate on software and studies with a number of younger USGS scientists across many USGS Water Science Centers.

Bob can be reached at [rmhirsch49@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhirsch49@yahoo.com) or [rhirsch@usgs.gov](mailto:rhirsch@usgs.gov)

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Pete Anttila** writes: My wife Joyce and I had a wonderful time at the 19th Reunion. The venue was fantastic with excellent food (probably the best of the 7 reunions we have attended). The tours were fantastic. Our President, Jim Stark, led a productive and informative Business Meeting and hosted a fantastic banquet. The reunion set a benchmark for future reunions. I know Mark Anderson will use the benchmark and try to better it at the next reunion. We recently, Oct. 7-13, spent an enjoyable 6-full days in Myrtle Beach, SC, including a day with rain and high winds from Hurricane Michael. The last week in Oct. and the first week of Nov. Joyce will have cataract surgery and soon will have her eagle eyesight back. On Nov. 30 we leave for 4 months in Indian Shores, FL.

**Jim Bennett** writes: Merilee and I attended the Retirees' reunion in the Twin Cities, MN in September. We would like to express our appreciation to Local Area Committee (and all the volunteers) for their time and effort in making it a great experience. The tours were wonderful, the food was great, and the presentations provided during the Business Meeting and the Banquet informative. In October we traveled to California for her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, and visited with both friends and family from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Central Valley.

**Joyce Biesecker** writes: to 'Dick Engberg' – please consider adding these two to your 'water songs': "Bridge over Troubled Water", and if you can include "Sloop John B", and why not "Proud Mary?" Just proving I still read the Newsletter.

**Jim Borchers** writes: Hi -- It is always great to read the WRD retirees' newsletter. Thanks for the dedicated effort to produce it. Alice and I have retired and unretired (Andrew, our youngest son is starting Kinesiology at California Polytechnic Institute and State University). By the way, our oldest son, Steven (30, but shush about his age) is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher that is loved by his students and for whom he has wanted to teach since he was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. After retiring in June 2017, Alice is operating her new company, Accent Matters, working for the Davis Joint Unified School District as a contract Speech Pathologist. The kids absolutely love her, just like me and our kids. I'm running what soon will be called, WaterMatters, LLC (which actually is just me, don't tell anybody). So far, I've worked for:

- the Dept of Justice and National Park Service to defeat a wrongful death lawsuit and subsequent appeals filed as result of a climber's fatality during a rock fall from the 3000-ft-high cliffs above 'Curry Village' in Yosemite that was blamed by Plaintiffs on septic system leachate in a watershed distant from the cliffs and which ignored the average 30 feet of melting snow annually in the area (pretty easy technical arguments);
- with Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park to avoid disturbance of the source of groundwater to Giant Sequoia Groves during renovation of roads and parking lots;
- the California Water Foundation as a sub to a local engineering outfit to describe all historical land subsidence in California particularly subsidence related to groundwater use (the report was used by the CWF to lobby the state regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which passed. Pretty neat to see quick results from a USGS-type report. That had never happened to me. In fact this weekend (Oct 13 2018) I revisited the Wawona area, YNP, and talked to a resident property in-holder there who informed me that the National Park Service was discussing how they should plan for the future water needs of Wawona, YNP. I had done a fairly complete report on that subject in the early 1990s. Apparently NPS did not remember it. Thank goodness for the memory of locals.)
- a bunch of pro-bono stuff; and most recently
- three agricultural interests that have agreed to reduce pumpage from a deep aquifer and install groundwater recharge facilities as part of a land subsidence abatement program in the San Joaquin Valley. We'll see how that plays out during the next drought— Yo , Vance Kennedy.
- various professional societies to publish papers on these activities.

I'm also on the board of Davis Community Meals and Housing, a non-profit that serves 3 meals a week to anyone who wants to eat, and provides housing and programs designed to transition homeless individuals and families from street life to independent living and jobs in our community. We're building a 90-unit low-income apartment complex this fall and four-story transitional housing and resource center for folks with no shelter options. And, we're living with a needy golden retriever, our third, that needs to have reassuring pets constantly. That is OK because I never learned to text with two hands. (I still regret giving up my flip phone, although texting was hell then.) If you get a chance would you correct my contact information. Somehow the last four digits of my zip code was substituted for my phone number. (*Reference 'Directory Changes'*)

**Dale Cotter** writes: thanks for keeping us informed.

**Mike Frimpter** writes: Ali and I have moved (*reference 'Directory Changes' for new address information*). We report that we sold our lovely home in one part of Naples and moved to a senior living community in another part of Naples. This was soon after we had a direct hit from hurricane Irma in September which damaged our roof and collapsed our screen cage. Luckily, we were able to get repairs completed in time to sell our home in April. Then, we got to shoe horn our stuff into a smaller apartment. We live in proximity to outbreaks of: 1. Red Tide (a dinoflagellate), 2. Blue green algae, 3. old fashioned green algae, and now 4. diatoms. Florida has ignored proper management of wastes and fertilizers for decades, and now we will have ring side seats for observing the consequences in an unforgiving karst environment.

**Don Helm** writes: Dear Cathy, Kate, and Jim – Enclosed please find a check to be applied to member dues for USGS retirees. Living in Baltimore and having the next two generations in Los Angeles has allowed us to have a lot of fun traveling, but also is getting, or seeming to get, more complicated as one advances through one's 80's. So, we've decided to plant a foot on the West Coast more firmly with a permanent abode and car there without lifting our happy and convenient abode and car here. Wish us luck in our attempt to simplify life.

**JoAnn Huffman** writes: Hi Cathy – Doesn't seem possible you're retired. Seems like you should still be that kid I knew when I retired! Sounds like you are making the most of it as always. Congratulations. Enclosed is my check for past and future dues plus some. Thanks for keeping track of us.

**Bob MacNish** writes: Greetings from the Sonoran Desert. Haven't paid my dues for a while so I've enclosed a check for a decade's worth. For the last year and a-half I've been pretty busy remodeling the house we bought some 40 years ago (kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, HVAC, and rooftop solar). The dust has settled, and I really like those monthly electric bills of \$19.18. Even though my system didn't come on line until the end of February I have sent a little over twice as much energy to the grid as I have taken, which means I'll get back a pretty good chunk of the money I've given to the power company when we settle-up in the next quarter. I was doing some consulting with a mining company after I left the Survey and the University of Arizona, but I stopped that a year or so ago and now just do a little pro-bono consulting with environmental groups, mostly on ground water issues. Getting ready to go on a cruise to Alaska later this month with my sons, and grandchildren and I'm looking forward to seeing the kids (2 and 5 years old) reaction to dogsledding and Huskie puppies. Haven't been to Alaska since Phil Emery (aka Arctic Fox to his fellow OWL's) retired in an earlier century and since this cruise won't get to places I saw then I won't be able to note the effects of our warming climate. Phil and Janet took a couple of us on a tour down to Homer for lunch and I was amazed at the numbers of bald eagles we saw on the trip. They were as common as the crows on the farm I grew up on in upstate NY. On the way back to Anchorage we had a serendipitous encounter with a tidal bore coming up the Turnagain Arm. Keep up the good work. . . communication is the glue that holds us together.

**Georgina M. de Pinerio** writes: Dear Friends – Enclosed is my check for dues covering 2018 and 2019. Best regards to all my former co-workers. Rafael and I are doing fine, although he is now legally blind. I am now the designated driver. Other than that, we are OK. We survived Hurricane Maria in one piece. God bless you all.

**Al Rutledge** writes: Retired life continues to be good. Anne and I have enjoyed trips to Scotland and Upstate New York. Soon, we'll do another bicycling vacation, this time in Quebec. I continue with various hobbies such as a form of wood carving. I've found a little time for topics of interest from my USGS years: Recession analysis and recharge estimation. I'll send information about this to anyone who is interested.

**Skip Schmidt** writes: Don't know why you didn't get my email update last year. I've submitted again online today [skipstuff@hotmail.com](mailto:skipstuff@hotmail.com). Enclosed are dues for x2 years and a donation.

**Marv Sherrill** writes: Just back from the Minneapolis reunion – Fun time! Rosann and I are splitting time between Madison, WI (7 months) and the Villages, FL (5 months). For us, this is the best of both worlds with pickleball, golf, bridge, exercise classes, and social activities. We're still trying to do two or three domestic and/or

international trips each year. Our next trip will be with Road Scholars in October and will include visiting and learning about several national parks. Enclosed is a check which should, at least, catch me up for past dues. I see in the directory that Mrs. Albert Harr (Evelyn) is still listed as being active. She is, in fact, deceased and should be removed.

**Janet Welday** writes: The Ohio office had their semi-annual lunch today with Mike Eberle, Kevin Metzker, Steve and Sandy Hindall, Jim Morris, John Roberts, Steve Vivian, Rich Frehs, Janet Welday and for the last visit, Bernie Sroka who will be leaving Ohio next week for North Carolina. Bernie will be missed in Ohio but will be a great addition to NC. Our next lunch will be held next April 9, 2019. *(No picture was included in the notice.)*

**Barbara Wessner** writes: Please find enclosed a check for my past dues. I am enjoying retirement. John and I have been traveling alot the past 5 years. We have visited several countries in Europe and are planning a 21-day cruise for next year. We are still in Rolla, but have an apartment in Texas and we spend time there.

**Blaine White** writes: Enclosed is a check for past and current dues. Noticed the directory has my email as 'binmryl@gmail.com' and it should be [blnmryl@gmail.com](mailto:blnmryl@gmail.com) 'l' as in Larry. Thanks

### **NARFE Cautiously Optimistic on Passage of 2019 Federal Pay Raise**

<https://www.narfe.org/communications/index.cfm?fa=viewArticle&ID=4450>

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** (October 4, 2018) - In response to reports that an agreement has been reached between House and Senate republicans to give federal employees a 1.9 percent pay raise, NARFE President Richard G. Thissen issued the following statement:

"NARFE has been working hard with Congress and remains cautiously optimistic that federal employees will receive a 1.9 percent pay raise in 2019 after hearing preliminary reports that the House and Senate have reached an agreement supporting it. This modest increase in pay not only acknowledges America's hardworking, middle-class federal employees, but also serves as an investment that will help maintain and strengthen the federal workforce and align it more competitively with the private sector. While this appears to be a step in the right direction, we recognize this development is not final and that elements in the agreement may change when the Senate and the House reconvene after the upcoming midterm elections."

## MEMORIALS



**Albert Carl "Jerry" Duncan 88**, a native of Long Branch, NJ and resident of Greenwell Springs, LA passed away on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at his home. He was also a resident of Golden, CO for over forty years. He was a United States Air Force Veteran and retired from the United States Geological Survey in 1995. He was an avid baseball fan of the New York Yankees and the Colorado Rockies. He loved to play golf and he loved to travel with his wife. Visitation was held on October 18, 2018 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Morganza, LA until Mass of Christian Burial in the church. Entombment to follow in the church cemetery. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Sandra Ann Serio Duncan, mother-in-law, Rita Serio and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Kenneth and Elfie Abbiati Duncan, a son A. Carl Duncan, Jr., a brother and a sister, and his father-in-law Charles Serio. Pallbearers were Michael Serio, Garth Albert, Darryl Serio, Blaine Serio, Christopher Serio and Andre Serio. Honorary were Shaun Albert and James Blakey.



**Donald W. Ericson, 87**, passed away on October 27, 2014 in Grand Rapids, MN. He was born April 9, 1927 in Stromsburg, NE to Wesley and Mildred Ericson. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and married Jessie Schroeder on May 11, 1952. They moved to Ainsworth, NE where he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. From there they moved to Madison, WI for twelve years until moving to Grand Rapids, MN in 1965 and worked for the USGS until his retirement in 1985. They enjoyed traveling all over the U.S. in their RV. Donald also was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed boating and fishing. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jessie; parents; sisters, Eleanor Peterson and Mary Curry. Donald is survived by his two sons, a brother, one grandson, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Gathering of Friends was November 8, 2014 at the Timberlake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN.



**Jessie E. Ericson, 81**, (wife of WRD retiree **Donald W. Ericson**) passed away unexpectedly on January 29, 2013 in Grand Rapids, MN. Jessie was born on August 24, 1931 to Emma and Jess Schroeder of Fairmont, NE. While in York she met Donald W. Ericson, a University of Nebraska engineering student whom she married on May 11, 1952. They moved to Ainsworth, NE where Donald was a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1955 Donald was transferred to Madison, WI. Jessie took care of her family, raising their boys, camping and teaching them to fish, while reading a book. In 1965 the family moved to Grand Rapids, MN. Jessie and Don shared a love for the outdoors and knew they had found "home." With the boys in high school, Jessie returned to work at a local accounting firm, for nearly 20 years, and earned Licensed Public Accounting Certification. Upon retiring Jessie and Don pursued their shared dream of RVing and fishing. Travels included destinations from Alaska to Mexico, Hawaii to the Caribbean, and all places in between. They rarely traveled without their co-pilot, Dusty, an aptly named terrier mix. Favorite times were spent at the "cabin" with family and friends. Jessie was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters. She is survived by her husband, Donald; two sons, four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her faithful canine companion, Dusty.



**Bruce P. Hansen, 78**, passed away peacefully at his home after a brief battle with cancer on March 23, 2018. Born in Oceanside, Long Island, NY he was the son of the late Peter E and H. Violet (Hiltz) Hansen. He moved to the family farm in Haverhill at age 6, where he resided until his death. A graduate of Haverhill High School, he continued his education at Brewster Academy and graduated from University of New Hampshire with a degree in geology. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Army. He served his country in Panama, becoming a paratrooper and obtaining his small plane pilot's license. He returned home to the farm where he began Hansen's Christmas Tree Farm, which remains in operation today. Bruce took great pride in his trees, winning several awards at the Topsfield Fair. Bruce was a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey for over 40 years. He then held a similar position with the Massachusetts DCR until his retirement in 2015. He was an avid model train enthusiast and also enjoyed annual camping trips to Maine and Vermont with family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Bruce is survived by his two sons, his fiancé, and his former wife. Family and friends were invited to attend a Memorial Service on April 8, 2018 at West Congregational Church, Haverhill, MA.

**Evelyn M. Harr, 83**, (spouse of **C. Albert Harr** who passed away in April 17, 2012) passed away on December 30, 2005 at the Don and Marilyn Anderson Hospice Care Center after a long illness in Madison, WI. Evelyn was born May 10, 1922 in Louisville, CO to Andrew and Rena Lepenske. She and her husband Albert, the love of her life, were married for 63 long and wonderful years. They met in 1942 at Trinidad College, Trinidad, CO where they started their life together marrying just three months after they met. They moved many times over the years for his schooling and his work for the U.S. Geological Survey. They finally settled in Madison, WI in 1974. Evelyn is survived by her husband Al, a daughter and a son. She was a loving grandmother to her four grandchildren. A memorial service was held on January 3, 2006 at the Cress Funeral Home, Madison, WI. (**NOTE: Mrs. C. Albert Harr's name still appears in the current retirees' telephone directory, we were just recently notified that she had passed seven years earlier than her husband. In order to keep the telephone directory up-to-date we are including this recent notification for tracking purposes for the next annual update.**)



**Sharon Kay Hiner, 76**, (spouse of WRD retiree **Millard Hiner**) passed away peacefully on March 20, 2017, at home with her family at her side in Missoula, MT. She was born September 15, 1940, in Eureka, CA, to Melvin and June Christopher. A third generation Eureka, she graduated high school there and attended California State University, Humboldt in Arcata, CA, where she studied art. It was in this environment of magnificent redwoods and wild Pacific coastline that her interest in realistic landscape painting began. Sharon married her high school sweetheart, Millard Hiner in 1959 and began raising her family. They moved to Alaska in 1963 and spent the next sixteen years painting that awe-inspiring scenery. In 1979 they moved to Montana where she continued her art. She was an extremely accomplished artist winning best of show at several prominent art shows, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend who loved to entertain. Sharon was known for her ease in frequent conversation with even total strangers. She had a great love for history and traveled the entire Lewis and Clark trail. They spent several wonderful retirement years in Pierce, ID, before moving to Missoula in 2012. Sharon is preceded in death by her parents; as well as her brother. Sharon is survived by her husband of 57 years, Millard, her two sons and a daughter, four grand-daughters and one great granddaughter. The family of Sharon wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Partners in Home Care Hospice



**Stephen H. Hull, 73**, passed away on July 10, 2018. Stephen was born on August 3, 1944 in Lincoln, NE to Herbert Hull and Frances (Dietz) Hull. **(Band's Name: Plain Label)**

"My friend, **Steve Hull**, died July 10, 2018. He was 73 years old and had been ill for more than a year. He was a lifelong resident of Lincoln, NE. As you will see, Steve lived his life on his own terms. When I think of Steve's life, I think of the Sinatra song, "My Way". Steve truly did things his way. Steve and I both started with USGS in 1962. He was still in high school. He retired in 2005. His time with USGS in the late 60's was interrupted by military service in Vietnam and Germany. Steve was a Hydro Tech his entire career with USGS. He did stream gaging and

other related field work and surface water records. He was good at what he did and received numerous awards but had no interest in management. He worked to support his true love. Steve's true love was his music but music his way. While growing up, he studied piano and violin, but in the early 70's he taught himself to play guitar which became his instrument of choice. During the same time, he grew a full beard which he kept for the rest of his life. He played in at least three different bands that played the music he loved best, old time music. Not only was Steve an excellent guitarist but he sang and sang well. In the mid to late 70's, Steve was in a band with three women, two of whom played fiddle and the third, his significant other, Kathy Kuehn, played banjo. If I remember correctly the band was called, "Three Broads and a Beard." Around 1979 or 1980, when one of the fiddle players left the band, Steve, Kathy and Sam, the other fiddle player, renamed their band, "Plain Label", and billed themselves as an old-time acoustic string band. Plain Label played gigs in and around Lincoln for at least the next thirty years. Steve's guitar was with him day and night. Whenever he was in the field with USGS, his guitar was there. I remember one time, I think probably 1978, he and another guy were measuring the flow of the Platte River at South Bend. The gage was at the Interstate 80 bridge across the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha. We received a call in the office from someone who said that one of our vehicles was parked just off the bridge and two guys were out on the bridge, one dangling something off the bridge and the second playing a guitar. Steve was told that he probably ought to leave the guitar in the vehicle when he was on a busy highway. From about 1979 to 1986 my wife and I held about two parties a year at our house near Lincoln. Steve and his bandmates were our house band. They attended almost every party and brought their instruments, set up in our rec room and played a set. I always requested a wonderful traditional piece that Steve played and sang. It was called "Buffalo Skinners Song". Here are a few lines from it that I still remember from hearing Steve's baritone so many times. *'Twas in the town o' Jacksboro in the spring o' seventy-three, A man by the name o' Crego come steppin' up to me, Said how d'you do young feller, and how'd you like to go, And spend one summer pleasantly on the range o' the buffalo.....//.....The season bein' near over, ol Crego he did say, This crowd had been extravagant was in debt to him that day, We coaxed him an' we argued, but still it was no go, We left his damned ol' bones to bleach on the range o' the buffalo.'* Steve is survived by Kathy, his sister Carolyn Iodice, and other relatives and musician friends. A celebration of his life was held on August 3, 2018 at Kathy's home in Lincoln. Attendees were asked to bring musical instruments. I have no doubt that Steve and his guitar are still together and are serenading the angels but doing it his way. Rest in peace, my friend."

**-By Richard Engberg**



**William B. Mann, IV, 84**, of Marshall, VA passed away on August 26, 2018. Bill was born in Louisville, KY to William B. Mann, III and Olivia Catherine Hebel on July 11, 1934. He graduated from Manual High School and J.B. Speed Scientific School of Engineering-University of Louisville, KY. He completed the ROTC program and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He married Helene Paschke on September 10, 1955. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 37 years, retiring in 1994. His work took him to all 50 states. He retired in 1994 and was honored with a stream monitoring station named after him in Catawba County, KY. In 1999 Bill and Helene built their retirement home in Marshall, VA with a beautiful view overlooking Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park. Bill loved his church and volunteered in a variety of leadership roles including everything from usher to president of the congregation. He worked for many years as chairman of the Circuit

9 Mission Board. He was dedicated to the principles of stewardship and service and was honored for his years of leadership, not only in the church, but also in the Boy Scouts of America where he served as scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster. Bill is survived by his wife, Helene, of 62 years; four children: Bill (Sally) of Ashburn, VA; Eric (Kammy) of Bristol, FL; Christa Sullivan of Brambleton, VA; and Maria (Dennis) Roberts of Lynchburg, VA. Bill was proud of his grandchildren: Ben (Shirlina), Andrew, and David (Anna) Mann; Jordan and Joshua Bennett; Michael Sullivan; Gretchen and Sena Roberts; and his great grandchildren: Peyton Sullivan; Liam, Teddy and Winston Mann; and Jayden Bennett. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Ardis Mann and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Glenn and Marianne Doss, along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Martha, his brother Jim and his son-in-law Mike Sullivan. A Celebration of Life was held on September 1, 2018 at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, Ashburn, VA. The family received visitors at the church prior to the services. Interment will be at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, KY.

**(Charles Merk attended Bill's service:** "A Celebration of Life for Bill Mann was held at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn, Virginia on Saturday, September 1, 2018. You may know that Bill's oldest son Bill is the founding and current pastor of this Church. I remember attending the Church's dedication service. Bill's Celebration of Life was attended by about 250 persons - the majority of whom were the parishioners. Bill's wife Helene, children Bill, Christa and Maria as well as Bill's grandchildren and great-grandchildren were in attendance. You may know that tragically, Bill's son Eric died as a result of a motorcycle accident in Florida where he lived, two days after Bill passed away. About 20 WRD Retirees and family were in attendance, including Gary Cobb, Verne Schneider, Sharon Mathey, Alan and Carolyn Lumb, Tom and Jeanie York, Al Condes, Richard Engberg, Cathy Hill and her husband, Harvey Jobson and his wife, Andy Anderson, Bob Hirsch and a few others. I was happy to communicate with them all. Bill Mann was a true friend and colleague. There were refreshments in the Great Room of the Church after the service where there was ample time to speak to Bill's family and our USGS colleagues. In Bill's memory, memorials maybe be given to Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church 43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn, Va. 21048. Make checks payable to OSWLC/Bill Mann IV.")

**Howard F. McCormack, age 73**, passed away April 28, 2016 in Yuma, AZ. He was born on July 15, 1942, the second of five children, in Hastings, NE to Howard and Maxine (Sprenkle) McCormack. Howard's family moved, in 1951, to live on a farm near Moundville, MO. After completing Grade School in Moundville, he attended Nevada High School, Nevada, MO and graduated in 1960. In his first year at Nevada high school, the high school was destroyed by fire, In 1961, while Howard and his older brother Darroll were attending University of Missouri, School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, MO, Howard's family moved to the Sacramento, CA area. Howard attended the University of Missouri (UMR), Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, MO, which was renamed as the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR). He received BS and MS degree in Civil Engineering from UMR. Howard was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He served on the Neta Eta Chapter "Board of Control" while working for the USGS office in Rolla, MO. Howard was a long-time employee of the USGS retiring in 2003. His USGS work sites included: Rolla, MO; Salt Lake City, UT; Logan, UT; and Yuma, AZ. He is survived by his mother Maxine McCormack (Fair Oaks, CA); three brothers and a sister, and a multitude of nieces and nephews. Howard supported his supreme director (his mother) in various projects she wanted completed. He will be missed by his mother and family members scattered throughout his beloved country. Sr. Knight Howard McCormack, an Honorary Life member, will be missed by his Knights of Columbus Council (#1806) and Assembly (#20), since they will need to find someone else to complete the assignments Howard worked for them. A funeral Mass was held on June 25, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Yuma, AZ. Howard was cremated, and his ashes will be buried at Desert Lawn Memorial Park, in Yuma, AZ.



**Edward C. Rhodehamel, 97**, who passed away peacefully on August 24, 2017 surrounded by family. He was a graduate of Michigan State University, as well as a World War II Navy Veteran, commanding a mine sweeper protecting the Panama Canal and later, sweeping in advance of the Pacific Fleet. Ed worked as a geologist and geohydrologist with the US Geological Survey retiring in 1980. His work both in the field and at the office was fundamental to the successful preservation of what is now the New Jersey Pinelands National Preserve. He later taught classes at George Mason University, and was active in the Bull Run Evergreen Lions Club. He was a Scoutmaster, little league coach, gardener, avid bowler, softball pitcher, horseshoe player, and runner long before it was popular. He was preceded in death by first wife Rosemary Margaret Rhodehamel, and second wife, Octavia Rhodehamel. Edward is the father of a son and daughter, step-father to a son and daughter; cherished grandfather of 8 and dear great-grandfather of one. Funeral services were held on September 1, 2017 at Demaine Funeral Home, Fairfax. Interment will take place at Lakeview Cemetery in Blackstone, VA

**Janet Rickert** (wife of retiree **Dave Rickert**) passed sometime in 2018.

**Randy H. Russell**, a Supervisory Information Technology Specialist at the USGS, passed away on August 26, 2018 at the age of 50. Randy was an employee at the Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center (PCMSC) in Santa Cruz, CA. Randy had a passion for mentoring students and early-career IT staff, helping them learn to become proficient at IT and at customer support. He especially enjoyed collaborations with the Computer Engineering Department at The University of California, Santa Cruz, CA to employ students through a cooperative agreement with the University. Randy was a coffee aficionado

and kept an espresso machine in his office. During PCMSC potluck holiday parties he would roll it out, and a line would quickly form for his espresso and vanilla ice cream affogato drinks. A celebration of life will be held later.

**Alan C. Sedam, 88**, passed away on July 13, 2018, as a result of complications from a recent illness. He was born on April 25, 1930 in Toledo, OH. A Graduate of Columbus North High school, Alan went on to attend the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH where he earned both undergraduate and Masters' degrees in Geology. At one point during Alan's academic pursuits, Alan left his studies for 2 years to serve in the United States Army. In 1951 Alan worked for the Yellowstone Park Company, an experience that would significantly influence his passions and career choice in later years. Alan's knowledge and experience in Geology led to employment with the Atlantic Refining company, Tin Research, The National Park Service as an interpretive park ranger and finally the U. S. Geological Survey as a Hydrologist, where he spent the bulk of his active career until retirement in 1994. He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the Association of Professional Geologists. In addition to these professional memberships, he served as a volunteer for the Clinton Township Fire Department, between the mid-60s, through the early 70s. He had an adventurous spirit that manifested itself into a love for travel, resulting in numerous road trips throughout North America - many taking him back to his beloved Yellowstone National Park. Alan also enjoyed a wide variety of music, never allowing age to dissuade him from enjoying the performances at live venues. In his later years it wasn't unusual to see him attending shows put on by The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Steely Dan or even a couple KISS concerts. And, finally, Alan had a deep fondness and kindness for animals, sharing his home with many throughout his time here on earth. Alan is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Elaine (nee Jones) who he was engaged and married to for over 61 years. Alan is also survived by his two sons, a daughter, and a grandson. A Memorial Service to remember and celebrate Alan's life was held on August 12, 2018 at the Rutherford-Corbin Funeral, Worthington, OH.



**Lore Schneider (nee: Heti Lore Koppel), 92**, (widow of WRD retiree **Robert Schneider**) passed away on September 17, 2017 in Springfield, VA. Lore was born on October 10, 1924 in Bochum, Germany. Bochum had a small Jewish community which was able to support one synagogue and one small Jewish day school which Lore attended. Lore's father was a respected lawyer and judge. She was an only child and grew up in a wonderful and loving home. When Hitler came to power, restrictions and sanctions were immediately felt in Bochum. Lore's father was fired and disbarred for being a Jew. One day, he and his law partner were brutally beaten in an alleyway. It was then that her father decided that the family must leave Germany before conditions got even worse. Lore's aunt and her family lived in Washington D.C. and they agreed to sign affidavits for Lore and her parents. The family immigrated to the United States in 1934. During *Kristallnacht* on November 9, 1938, the synagogue in Bochum was destroyed. Once the war began, Lore's father spent much of his free time trying to get affidavits for the other members of their family that had remained in Germany. He succeeded in rescuing several of them. Others, however, perished in camps or went into hiding for the duration of the war. In the meantime, Lore worked as a "government girl" during the war, working in the U.S. Department of the Interior while attending night classes at George Washington University. After the war ended, her father worked for the prosecution team at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials. Lore spent her adult life teaching secondary school and adult education. She has volunteered at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for many years. Lore Schneider (**Heti Lore Koppel**) — **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 2/2/18** <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/office-of-survivor-affairs/survivor-volunteer/lore-schneider> **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126



**Norma Jean Stewart, age 93**, passed away on August 28, 2018. She was born January 11, 1925 in Cambridge, OH to the late Norval and Mary Heskett. Norma worked and volunteered for many years. After high school, she volunteered for a year at Cambridge Hospital, caring for wounded World War II soldiers. She then went to work at U.S. Geological Survey as an administrative officer for 35 years. After she retired, Norma volunteered at Mount Carmel East Hospital for 32 more years. Norma always loved music. She sang in numerous choirs for many years, including the Columbus Symphony Choir. She also played the guitar, wrote poetry and loved to draw. Norma was an avid gardener too and had a huge flower and vegetable garden. Norma was very active in her church. Norma was preceded in death by her parents; by her husbands, Robert C. Garver and Lawrence L. Stewart, and a sister. She is survived by her son and daughter, a step-daughter; two grandchildren, a step-grandson, five great-grandchildren, and great-great-granddaughter. Services were held on September 5, 2018 at the Schoedinger Northeast Chapel, Gahanna, OH. Interment Kingwood Memorial Park, Lewis City, OH.

**Patsy Jean Still, 82**, March 10, 1934 – September 14, 2016 – retired in 1990 from USGS. Arrangements under the direction of Rogue Valley Funeral Alternatives, Medford, OR. (*I made several attempts on the internet to locate a memorial for Pat, but this was all I could find for Pat*)

**Margery A. Tibbetts, 85**, passed away on July 15, 2018 in Columbus, OH. Margery was born on December 23, 1932 in Worcester, MA. Margery graduated from Clark University, Worcester, MA in 1954. She was a Library assistant at Clark University, Worcester, MA, and Geology Library at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; and, the U.S. Geological Survey Library. She was a Charter member of Columbus, OH chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America. Survived by

husband Robert A. Tibbetts, three daughters, and two sons, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH on July 25, 2018.

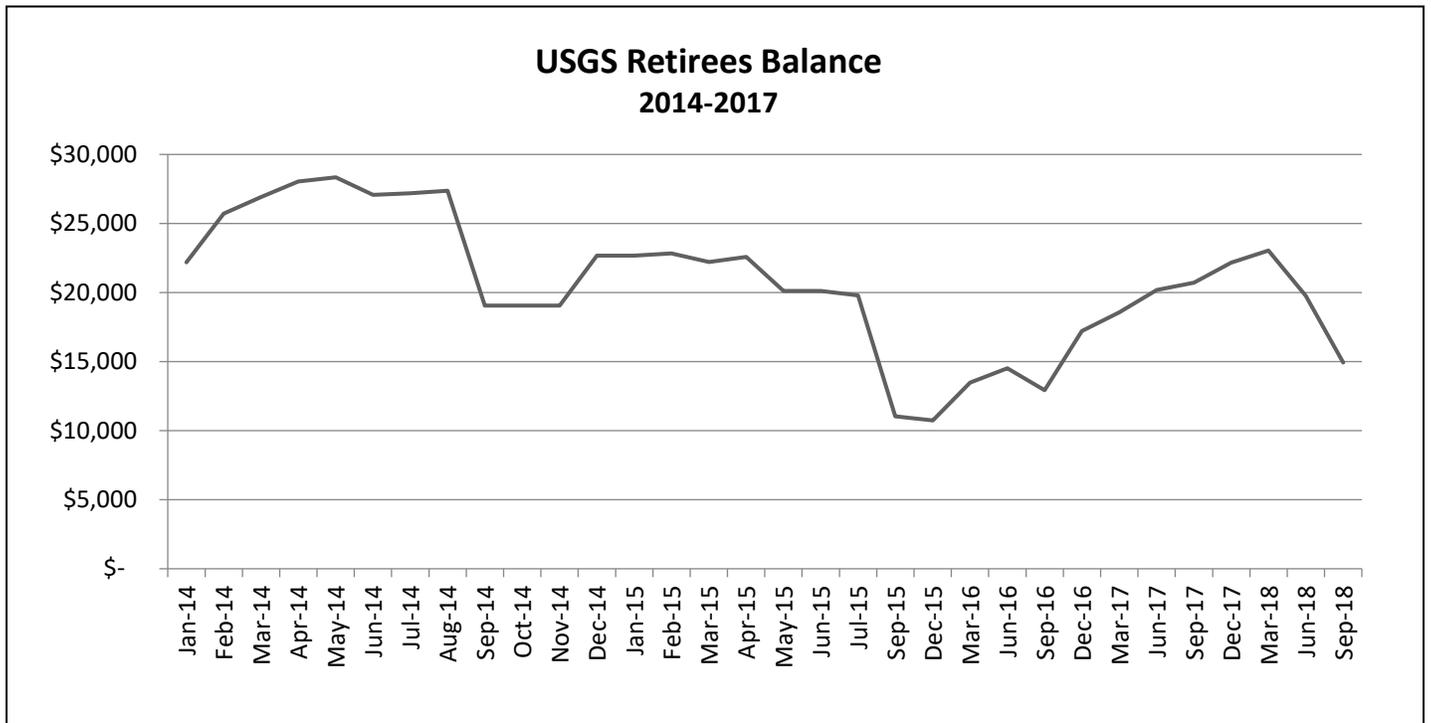


**Patricia "Pat" Adams Wagner, 82**, (wife of retiree **C. R. 'Russ' Wagner**) of Carriere, MS, passed unexpectedly on August 5, 2018. Pat and her husband were spending the summer at their cottage on Dalhousie Lake in Ontario Canada. Pat was born in Endicott, NY to George Adams and Thelma Chrysler Adams. Pat graduated from Cornell University in 1957 and was employed in hospital and public health laboratories in Ithaca, NY and Augusta, ME prior to moving to Carriere, MS in 1979 and continuing her scientific career at Stennis Space Center. In 1988 she earned her MS degree in Computer Science & Statistics from The University of Southern Mississippi while employed conducting research related to marine corrosion and materials science. In 1998 she retired from oceanography research after spending fifteen years with the Naval Research Laboratory's Stennis facility. In retirement, she traveled the world with Russ; they were always planning their next destination. Surviving are her husband of 62 years, Russ, their two daughters, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother. Pat's family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the outpouring of sympathy and outreach from the Hide-A-Way Lake community. Friends celebrated Pat's life, on October 28, 2018 at the Hide-A-Way Lake Lodge.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2018

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports the organization had \$14,933 in its' coffers at the end of the third quarter, September 30, 2018. Expenses this quarter included \$1,950 to print the third quarter newsletter and the annual directory.

Special thanks for contributions above dues to Lloyd Reed. Many thanks for your generosity.



### NEWS NOTES ON SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES

#### Water in Loess (email received 10/13/2018)

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Peiyue\\_Li/publication/327435819\\_Water\\_in\\_Loess/links/5b8f760145851540d1c9d6ec/Water-in-Loess.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Peiyue_Li/publication/327435819_Water_in_Loess/links/5b8f760145851540d1c9d6ec/Water-in-Loess.pdf)

Peiyue Li and Hui Qian, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Chang'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, and Key Laboratory of Subsurface Hydrology and Ecological Effects in Arid Region of the Ministry of Education, Chang'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

#### *Water in Loess* article

Loess is a fine-grained windblown (aeolian) sediment which is homogeneous, porous, friable, pale yellow or buff, slightly coherent, typically non-stratified, and often calcareous. It is widely distributed in China, Argentina, Europe, the United States, and Middle Asia and mainly occurs in arid and semiarid regions with severe water resource shortages and fragile ecological environments. Mineral resources such as oil, gas, and coal, however, are rich in these areas.

The article includes a glossary, definition, and introduction. Then describes loess and its distribution. For the Loess Plateau, water resources development, surface and ground water, and soil water are described. The article ends with future directions and a bibliography.

This information will also be linked on the Reports Page 02 of the Sustainable Water Resources Site at <https://sites.google.com/site/sustainablewaterresources/>

Tim Smith  
Sustainable Water Resources Coordinator  
Government Web Site, <https://acwi.gov/>  
Sustainable Water Resources Site, <https://sites.google.com/site/sustainablewaterresources/>

## NEW MEMBERS

**Chandler, Lisbeth A. 'Libby' (18)** – 652 Pemberton Ct., Herndon, VA 20170, (h) 703-437-7739, [chandlerlisbeth@gmail.com](mailto:chandlerlisbeth@gmail.com)  
**Damrau, Donna L. (18) (Jim)** – 1033 Buttercup Road, Elizabeth, CO 80107, (c) 303.518.5558, [donnadamrau@gmail.com](mailto:donnadamrau@gmail.com)  
**Guswa, John H. 'Jack' (\*) (Susan)** – 20 Bridge Road, Unit 7, Florence, MA 01062, (h) 413-727-3221, (c) 413-584-1830, [iguswa@gmail.com](mailto:iguswa@gmail.com)  
**Olsen, Gregory W. 'Oly' (17) (Becky)** – 16512 NE Leaper Rd., Vancouver, WA 98686, (c) 360-597-6123, [gregwolsen@gmail.com](mailto:gregwolsen@gmail.com)  
**Sweny, Mark (18) (Carol)** – 53 Checkerberry Lane, Hopkinton, NH 03229, (c) 603-731-1342, [mjsweny@comcast.net](mailto:mjsweny@comcast.net)  
**Thormodsgard, June M. (12)** – 1809 S. Blauvelt Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, (c) 605-254-2125, [junethormodsgard@gmail.com](mailto:junethormodsgard@gmail.com)

(\*) **Other:** Former USGS/WRD employee (seven years: 1974-1981)

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Bader, John S. (94) (Diane)** – 916 525 7285 – phone  
**Bartlett, William P. 'Bill' (13) (Liz)** – (h) 207-218-1006, (c) 207-249-5301 – phones  
**White, Blaine T. (12) (Mary)** – [blnmryl@gmail.com](mailto:blnmryl@gmail.com) – corrects email addr  
**Borchers, James (07) (Alice)** – (h) 530 756-4098, (c) 530 220-5081 – phones  
**Duncan, A.C. 'Jerry' (95) (Saundra)** – *Jerry passed away on 14 Oct 2018 – delete from directory*  
**Edmonds, Robert 'Jack' (01) (Katty)** – (c) 480-365-8723, [whisper19@cox.net](mailto:whisper19@cox.net) – add cell phone email  
**Ericson, Donald W. (85) (Jessie)** – *Donald passed away 27 Oct 2014 and Jessie passed away 29 Jan 2013 – delete information*  
**Ewart, Mrs. Charles J. 'Terry' (W)** – (c) 808-256-8090, [starlite.jewels@gmail.com](mailto:starlite.jewels@gmail.com) – remove (h) phone, add cellphone new email  
**Frimpter, Michael 'Mike' H. (91) (Alice)** – 4775 Aston Gardens Way Apt. 204, Naples FL 34109-3574, (239) 513-1315 – addr phone  
**Fischer, Jack (97) (Maria)** – 410-726-2016, [jackfischer23@aol.com](mailto:jackfischer23@aol.com) – phone email  
**Harr, Mrs. C. Albert 'Evelyn' (W)** – *passed away on 20 Dec 2005 – delete from directory*  
**Helgesen, John (02) (Charleen)** – 1526 N. Park Lane, Fergus Falls, MN 56537, 218-998-2401 – addr phone  
**Hiner, Millard M. (95)** – *amend directory delete wife's name (Sharon) passed away 20 Mar 2017*  
**Hiner, Millard M. (95)** – Beatrice Brown-Hiner, (c) 406-830-7813 – chg spouse name, remove land line no., cell phone  
**Hudson, James 'Jim' (92) (Merle)** – [jhudson190@att.net](mailto:jhudson190@att.net) -- email  
**Johnes, Ludwig, A. H. 'Gus' (88) (Betty)** – 1868 W. Gate Circle, Heber Springs, AR 72543 – addr  
**Jones, Myrtle A. (08) (Brian Palmer)** – [myrstudent@yahoo.com](mailto:myrstudent@yahoo.com) – email  
**Mann, William B. 'Bill' (94) (Helene)** – *passed away August 25, 2018*  
**Mann, Mrs. William B (Helene) (W)** – *amend directory to reflect widow's name –*  
addr phone and email remain the same  
**McConnell, James (98) (Nancy)** – 3200 Stewart Lake Rd., Monroe, GA 30655, 770-466-1436, [jimbmc@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimbmc@bellsouth.net) – addr phone email  
**McCormack, Howard F. (03)** – *passed away 28 Apr 2016 – delete information*  
**Peters, Charlie CAP (13) (Leslie Hearn)** – 608 235-2009 – phone  
**Rhodehamel, Edward C. (80)** – *passed away 24 Aug 2017 – delete information*  
**Rollins, Harry C. (01)** – (c) 256-239-3844 – add cell phone remove email addr  
**Ryan, Barbara J. (08) (Jim Muldoon)** – 10090 Tropical Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34135, (c) 703-405-6337 – addr phone  
**Schmidt, Norman, E. 'Skip' (03) (Susan)** – [skipstuff@hotmail.com](mailto:skipstuff@hotmail.com) – email  
**Schneider, Mrs. Robert 'Lore K' (W)** – *passed away 17 Sep 2017 – delete information*  
**Sedam, Alan C. (94) (Elaine)** – *passed away 13 July 2018*  
**Sedam, Mrs. Alan C. 'Elaine' (W)** – *amend directory to reflect widow's name*

**Sherrill, Marvin G. 'Marv' (96) (Rosann)** – 738 Saukdale Way, Madison, WI 53717, (c) 608.556.8538  
 (Rosann – (c) 608.609-4740) – addr cell phone nos.  
**Shuter, Mrs. Eugene 'Carrie' (W)** – 2415 N. Richter Lane, Meridian, ID 83636, 208-807-2503 – addr phone  
**Stamer, John K. (97) (Shari)** – [jkstamer@gmail.com](mailto:jkstamer@gmail.com) – email  
**Still, Patsy J. 'Pat' (90)** – *passed away 14 Sep 2016 – delete information*  
**Wagner, C.R. 'Russ' (95)** – *amend directory delete wife's name (Pat) passed away 5 Aug 2018*  
**Watterson, Carol Ann (99)** -- 9555 W 59th Ave. Apt 141, Arvada, CO 80004, (c) 303-907-2796 – addrs  
 cellphone (home phone and email remains the same)  
**Weeks, Edwin P. 'Ed' (12) (Corda)** – [weekssedwin716@gmail.com](mailto:weekssedwin716@gmail.com) – email  
**Wessner, Barbara E. (10) (John)** – 12310 Jeffery's Place, Rolla, MO 65401, (c) 573.308.7846,  
[sooterwessner@hotmail.com](mailto:sooterwessner@hotmail.com) – addr cellphone no. email  
**Zogorski, John S. (14) (Merrilee)** – (c) 605.390.2640 – correct spelling of last name add cellphone no.

**STATE CONTACT**

**Southeastern Region**

Florida (Tampa)	Dan Duerr	813-920-4735	<a href="mailto:dan.duerr@earthlink.net">dan.duerr@earthlink.net</a> <b>(NEW)</b>
Mississippi	Jim Hudson	<a href="mailto:jhudson190@att.net">jhudson190@att.net</a>	lower case 1 <sup>st</sup> two letters in email

**Central Region**

South Dakota	Ken Lindskov	605-431-8318	phone no. correction
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**Western Region**

Arizona	Pat Tucci	<a href="mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com">ptucci@sprintmail.com</a>	corrects email
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**LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS**

**Southeastern Region**

Florida (Tampa)	ocasional	Dan Duerr	813-920-4735 <b>(NEW)</b>
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**Western Region**

Portland	lunch	bimonthly, variable	Bill McFarland	503-577-9238 <b>(NEW)</b> – replaces Carl Kroll)
Tucson	lunch	ocasional	Pat Tucci	303-898-9674 <b>(NEW)</b> – replaces Ken Hollett)

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE  
SKYLAR SMITH**



USGS Water Retirees,

I am extremely grateful for the \$1,500 scholarship that you have awarded to me. As you all know, starting out in a public service profession, money can be tight in the beginning of your career. I decided in the early months of 2017 that I wanted to start taking classes that would supplement my bachelor's degree enough to become qualified for a hydrologist position. I had been out of college for about a year, working full time as a hydrologic technician in Illinois. I still needed to take 6 credit hours of physics and 2 hours of calculus. Unfortunately, there is no way to take exactly 6 credit hours of physics and I could not get into calculus 2 with the business calculus class I had taken previously, while still in school. So, after prerequisites, I was on the hook for 22 credit hours, totaling about \$4,000 and 4 semesters.

The scholarship was enough money to pay off what I currently owed for classes, helping me out tremendously. This scholarship is a great resource for people like me that want to advance within the USGS, but don't have the resources to do so easily on their own. It is important for other technicians within the survey to know that there are groups like the USGS Water Retirees that will help them to better their education. I will personally hold your group in high regard for the rest of my career.

If converted to a Hydrologist position, I plan to spend my career building on an already great water science center, engaging with cooperators and the public to let them know how we can provide them a service, and conduct good science with some of the most respected scientists in the environmental field. I am fortunate in that I have been part of many projects while working for the USGS. I was hired as a student to assist with NAQWA Ground Water sampling in the summer of 2014. I spent that summer driving around northern Illinois and Wisconsin sampling public supply wells. In total, with no cruise control, we covered about 9,000 miles in 3 months that summer. In the following summers I assisted with sampling more public supply wells in Illinois and Iowa, as well as a network of monitoring wells in St. Louis. I was able to spend some time working on various Asian carp projects where I met and worked with people from many different USGS offices and agencies. Over three years, I assisted in data collection for the study of how the carp react to underwater implosions via "Water Gun," how the carp react to an excess of CO2 in the water, and the efficacy of the electric fish barrier at Romeoville, Illinois. My part for the study of the electric fish barrier included sitting on a barge deck collecting hydroacoustic data for 2 weeks on the Illinois River and for 2 weeks on the Chicago Area Waterway System. In addition to these projects, I have also assisted with bathymetric surveys on Lake Michigan, monitoring the deposit of sand from nearby dredging operations. These were long days, typically around 14-16 hours, but a lot of fun. Lake Michigan is a beautiful place to work and driving the boats is a blast.

While working full time for the USGS, my job has been predominantly streamgaging. I run a network of 14 gages, which include 13 stage/discharge sites and one index velocity site. As an avid kayaker and fisherman, I love the field work aspect of my job. A selling point for me with this job was knowing that I would be paid to go out to places I have never been and explore rivers. Because of my background in ground water quality, I was asked if I would be the project chief for NAWQA ground water sampling in Illinois this year (2018). This was my first project, and it can certainly be chalked up as a learning experience. I learned how to manage a budget, efficiently inventory supplies, organize a sampling vehicle, contact property owners, ensure the quality of the samples, and review the data. This, along with maintaining my stream gaging sites and taking classes, made for a busy summer. I hope that more opportunities continue to come up during my career with the USGS.

Thank you for everything!  
Skylar Smith

**The USGS National Center  
Richard A. Engberg, Archivist  
USGS Retirees**

About a year ago, I received an e-mail from Kate Flynn, now Secretary of USGS Retirees, that included a copy of a pamphlet entitled *U. S. Geological Survey National Center, Status Report 1972*. The report discussed the need for a National Center and how it became a reality. Kate suggested that it might be the basis for an article for the Retirees Newsletter. I agreed to prepare an article. Here it is a year later.

Beginning in about 1917, the USGS administrative headquarters were located at the Department of the Interior (DOI) building (now the GSA building) in Washington, DC. When the new Department of the Interior building across E Street was completed in the 1930's, USGS administration remained in the old building. The other USGS employees in the DC area were housed in other buildings around the Washington metro area. By the early 1960's, USGS employees were housed in 30 different buildings in 17 widely dispersed areas. This nearly impossible situation was a bureaucratic nightmare and there was a need for a permanent location for all personnel comprising the national headquarters. I remember my friend, Herman Feltz, telling me about starting his Washington area assignment in a place called Arlington Towers.

In 1964, Congress provided slightly over \$2,000,000 to the General Services Administration (GSA) for site acquisition and design for a USGS building. Sites in DC, MD, and VA were considered. After a few years, GSA acquired a tract of wooded land for the USGS campus in the newly developing Reston, VA, planned community. Plans for a building with adequate parking that fit the planned community concept and that would accommodate all Washington area employees were drawn up, modified and approved. It was agreed that the building be constructed with private funds provided by Gulf Reston, Inc. and leased to the Government. Bids to construct were invited in September 1970. On June 26, 1971, a bid was approved, and on July 31, 1971, ground breaking occurred with Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, doing the honors.

The building as designed and built is comprised of three sections, two stacks and a long low section attached to what is called the B stack. The building is 1200 feet long. The A stack which contains the main entrance and is closest to the Sunrise Valley Drive entrance to the campus, is seven stories high. The B stack to the right of the A stack as you face the main entrance is mostly four stories high but has a partial fifth floor attached to the A stack as are the lower floors. Using a computer program, the stacks were designed to maximize window space. To accomplish this, each floor of the stacks is an offset octagon. The A stack was primarily for office space, the B stack for laboratories and the low building for map reproduction (printing plant). Because of the octagonal shape, some of the window offices also have unique shapes. Interior rooms of the A stack were for offices and support.

As originally planned and constructed, the seventh floor of the A Stack, a true octagon, included offices for the Director's office and his staff and the Conservation Division. The sixth floor, also a true octagon, housed the Administrative, Publication, and Computer Center Division. The Water Resources Division was located on the fifth floor with offices in the A stack and laboratories in the partial fifth floor of the B Stack. The Survey library was on the fourth floor of the A stack with Geologic Division labs in the B Stack. The Geologic Division was on the third floor of both stacks and the Topographic Division on the second floor of both stacks. The lobby and the Personnel Office were located on the main floor. and the cafeteria on the lower level with a one-story dining area with windows on three sides attached at ground level. The post office and building maintenance were in the lower level of B stack

Since the building was first occupied to the present, many changes have been made. For example, in 1982 following the creation of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), most of the functions of the USGS Conservation Division were transferred to MMS with the rest of the functions transferred to the Bureau of Land Management the next year. This created space on the seventh floor which was filled by the newly created Information Systems Division. However, the Water Resources offices have remained on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor to this day with some laboratories on the main floor of the B stack.

Construction was completed in 1974 and the moving-in process began. The building was soon occupied to capacity and was even more crowded when the Biologic Division was created in 1993 and scientists and support personnel from other Interior agencies moved in. More recently, the closure of the map reproduction area and loss of most of the Topographic Division together with attrition in both water and geology has led to vacancies in some areas of the building. It is my understanding that some areas of the building are or are planned to be leased to other organizations.

Now I want to add some thoughts of my own. I visited the National Center for the first time in 1979 when I was Nebraska District Studies Section Chief and frequently thereafter until 1989 when after more than three years as Iowa District Chief, I moved to the DC area. On my first visit, I observed that the location of the Center was beautifully landscaped with trees as tall as the building directly behind it, creating an almost park-like atmosphere for the campus. It wasn't like any federal building I'd ever seen.

Because of the stack design, the building was, at least for me, difficult to navigate, and until they got used to it, for the National Center employees as well. When I visited, I spent most of my time on the fifth floor. From the elevators in the A stack, corridors on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor ran in at least six different directions with numerous crosscutting hallways, a veritable maze. Restrooms were conveniently located near elevators and elsewhere, but I was told by locals to allow a little extra time to find the restroom if I was very far from it. Also, the room numbers generally were not consecutive. For example, room 5A-101 might not be next to 5A-102. For a visitor such as myself, it often took asking for directions and sometimes these were either not accurate or I didn't follow the directions correctly. Nevertheless, I found navigating the building to be interesting and intriguing when it wasn't frustrating.

What was even more interesting was that the other floors particularly the second, third, and sixth were not configured the same as the fifth floor. For example, room 3A-102 might not necessarily be directly below 5A-102 and the corridors were configured differently than those on the fifth floor. So basically, each floor was its own maze.

When I moved to the area in 1989, my office was in the Main Interior Building in DC, a building with long, straight corridors and rooms with consecutive numbers. Boring! It was much less interesting than the National Center. It wasn't until 1997 that I had an office in the National Center. It was on the first floor of B stack with a window facing the forest. It was about 130 feet in one direction to the restroom and about 130 feet another direction to Jim's store. What an ideal location. I was in decent physical shape those days from walking back and forth!

I retired in 1999, but I still go back to the National Center several times a year on Retiree's business. I still tend to make wrong turns, occasionally get lost, and have trouble locating people, but you know what, I don't care. I still enjoy it and wouldn't trade it.