

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2013

On April 26, 2013, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Forty people were in attendance. They were: **Ed Abernathy, Bob Bumgarner, Charlie Cail, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Lloyd Garrison, David Haggard, Thelma Jean Herndon and son Royce, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Tim and Margaret Miller, Gordon and Minnie Moebius, Herbert Moody, Nelson Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, John and Joy Pewthers, Stan Rice, Gayland Sandy, John and Shirley Spitzer, and Roland and June Willis.**

Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** said she mailed 336 notices about our April meeting. Nine were returned and two were re-mailed. Current addresses are needed for **B.B. Bennett**, Hydro; **Jerry Winchester**, Marietta; **Dorothy Snowden**, McAlester; **Debbie Ruark**, Stillwater; **Gary Garman**, McAlester; **Calvin Gann**, Antlers; **Bobby Morton**, Chelsea; and **Carl Mackey**, Kingfisher.

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our efforts to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes, newsletters, and pictures from each of our meetings. **Bill Porter**, current ASTC for Water Resources manages the website for the retirees who very much appreciate it.

Eight new retirees have been added to the Oklahoma retiree list since we last met: **Greg Scott**, State Soil Scientist, Stillwater, 37 years; **Lanny Miller**, Asst. State Conservationist (FO), Stillwater, 35+ years; **Brad Elder**, Soil Conservationist, Anadarko, 38.5 years; **Ron Schmidt**, District Conservationist, Cordell, 25 years; **Ron Hilliard**, State Conservationist, Stillwater, 37 years; **Ann Colyer**, Tribal Resource Conservationist, Durant; **Shelley Hungerford**, Administrative Assistant, Stillwater, 23 years; and **Cherrie Brown**, District Conservationist, Boise City.

Fred Fortney read a list of recent retiree deaths: **Joe Lansford**, Sulphur, 1/17/13, 97 yrs. old; **Charles Harmon**, Edmond, 11/12/12, 71 yrs. old; **Gene Womack**, Perry, 2/18/13, worked in Cheyenne WO & Perry AO in 1960's; **Ron Mathiews**, Eufaula, 1/26/13, retired in 1993 as SCT @ Eufaula; **Billie Sites**, Norman, 1/8/13, wife of **George Sites**, Engineer, retired in late 1980's; **Danny McCook**, 1/25/13, Marlow WO, 69 yrs. old; **Vivian Cagle**, Stillwater, 1/18/13, wife of **John Cagle**; **Clarence Hughes**, SCT, Holdenville, 3/13/13, retired 1994; **Fred Jones**, Tulsa; **Hadley Meinders**, 4/20/13, 90 yrs. man, retired 1980 from Purcell/Norman; **Denny Runnels**, son of **Dan and Sharon Runnels**, passed away 4/1/13; **Michelle Williams**, Tulsa CD Secretary, 11/30/12, 57 yrs. old; **Dr. Jim Stritzke**, 2/13, Professor at OSU who worked with many SCS/NRCS employees; and **Novalene Norton**, retired District Secretary, Sulphur 4/2013. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred** offered a prayer.

Tim Miller introduced himself as a first time attendee along with his wife **Margaret**. **Tim** retired in June 2012 and spends most of his time operating a Polled Hereford cattle ranch, church activities, and playing with seven grandchildren.



New retiree Tim Miller and his wife Margaret

Steve Chessmore said he was living in the Oklahoma City Area and spends his time hanging out with his grandson and traveling to Virginia to see his granddaughter.

Lowell McMasters reported that **Ferris Allgood**, former Soil Scientist at Woodward, had authored a book 'Christmas 1941'. It is available online. **Ferris** retired as the State Soil Scientist in Salt Lake City, UT.

Fred and Gayle Fortney continue to live at Stillwater where they support and attend most of Oklahoma State University sporting events. Both volunteer in activities at the Methodist Church and the community Resale Store. **Fred** had four bypass heart surgery in February but has recovered and doing well. They just returned from spending a week at Branson, Mo. Last summer they spent several days at Estes Park, Co and then the week end with their son and daughter-in-law at Fort Collins. Last fall they had a condo for a week at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee where they enjoyed the change of the beautiful leaves in the Smoky Mountains.

David Haggard has been working for M&E Consultants as a Project Engineer on the rehabilitation of five watershed sites in Oklahoma. He has enjoyed getting re-acquainted with the watershed program and the NRCS staff in Oklahoma, and worked with Oklahoma retirees **Dean Cook** and **Raymond Lee**, as well as **Don Shanklin** and several retirees from Texas

Roland Willis shared that he and **June** continue to enjoy living in the country. They garden a little and have a few fruit trees. They also enjoy being close to nature and wildlife. Deer and turkey are common place. They have a few martins this year and saw a wood duck enter the wood duck box down by a new pond recently. When Moore, Oklahoma was hit by a tornado in 1999, it also took out Mulhall, Oklahoma. The little sand stone Methodist Church in Mulhall was built in 1894 and was one of the few buildings left standing after the tornado. A Habitat for Humanity crew helped build a home there after the storm. Later, **June** and **Roland** decided to move their membership from Stillwater to the Methodist church in Mulhall. **Roland** also mentioned that he and **June** will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in July 2013.



Roland and June Willis

'Flashes from the Past' were presented by **Randy and Bonnie Freeland**. They had scanned photos from a 1977 State Awards Program booklet and presented a power point video for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Many of the award recipients were present at the meeting. **Roland Willis** was the State Conservationist at the time of the awards program. **Ed Thomas**, Assistant Administrator for Land Resources in Washington D.C. in 1977 was also pictured.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2013, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 & Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd.

This newsletter insert is being submitted after the May 20th tornadoes in Moore, Oklahoma and other locations in Oklahoma the day before. We retirees in Oklahoma just want the rest of the country to know we appreciate your thoughts, prayers, physical and financial support for the loss of life and property during that time. We **will** persevere as we are **Oklahoma Strong!**