

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2015

On April 24, 2015, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Thirty nine people were in attendance. They were: **Lester Brockman, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Duane Crider, Robert Dukes, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy Freeland, Jim and Roberta Frie, Harry Fritzler, Chuck Grimes, Sandy Hafner, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Gordon Moebius, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Stan Rice, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim Smith, Bob and Milly Smith and guest Vicki Nachtigall, Norm and Jane Smola, Gene Spurlock, and Andy Tucker.**

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retiree's President **Dan Runnels** asked that everyone keep **Nickey Lambeth** in their prayers. He has a foot problem and was told by his doctor to stay off of it. **Bob Day** spent this past weekend in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. He has returned home and is resting.

First time attendees were asked to introduce themselves: **Andy Tucker** lives in Okemah and retired two years ago. He is involved in a lot of community work around Okemah and does property management work on Okemah Lake Property. **Sandy Hafner** worked in a field office, area office, and state office before retiring in 1994. She retired again in 2014 and lives in Tulsa. **Robert Dukes** retired 2 years ago after working in El Reno and OKC. He is currently employed by OERB and runs a few cows. **Harry Fritzler** retired in January from the State Rangeland Specialist position. He was the Resource Conservationist at Pauls Valley TSO prior to that. He is now helping his wife (**Beverly**) in her veterinary business from time to time.



Winnie Jaques and Andy Tucker

Glen and Eunice Mullen still live in Southern Plaza Retirement Community in Yukon, Oklahoma. They care for a raised flower bed in the court yard at the residence. **Nelson and Mary Mueller** announced that they will be grandparents for the 1st time in November. An "Alaskan Cruise and train tour from Seward to Anchorage and on to Denali National Park" should be on everyone's bucket list according to **Duane Crider**. He and **Jan** had a most memorable experience doing that last year. He runs and walks every day and has 4 grandkids within a quarter mile of his house.



Sandy Hafner, Norm and Jane Smola

Chris Shepherd is about to do some major travel since retirement. He runs cattle, plays dominoes and fishes at Ft. Cobb and Foss Lakes. **Bobby J. Smith** is still quite active in the ministry since his retirement. **Chuck Grimes** and his wife **Beverly** travel quite a bit to see children and grandchildren. He is still active in the native grass seed business as well as making and selling Grasslander Seeders. He also has taken up raising Registered Texas Longhorn cattle.

Lowell and Minnie McMasters will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in June. **Minnie** is teaching a knitting class once a week and enjoying it very much. They have given up on traveling and sold their travel trailer and just concentrating on grandkids (9 grandkids and 2 "great" grandkids with one on the way). **Steve Chessmore** said his new job is just "chasing" grandkids.

Lester Brockman said he is a native Oklahoman but never worked here. He retired to the home farm in Kay County near Ponca City and runs a few cows. He does whatever he wants and travels some.



Lester Brockman and Wayne Fjeseth

President **Dan Runnels** read a list of recent retirees: **Debi Carnott**, Central North Canadian River Conservation District, Geary, 26 yrs. 12/14; **Harry Fritzler**, State Rangeland Specialist (State Staff) Norman, 34.5 yrs. 01/15; **Tom Lucas**, RC&D Coordinator (retired as Public Affairs Specialist), Woodward, 01/15; and **Leota Burnett**, SCT, Miami FO, 02/10/15.

Sandra Hough read a list of retiree deaths: **Joe Nichols**, 81, Soils, Fort Worth, retired in 1993, 37 yrs. service (10/21/14); **O. B. Boyd**, 64, SCT, Holdenville (11/18/14); **John Ensminger**, 85, Watershed Party Chief, Duncan, retired in 1993, 32 yrs. service, retired from Pauls Valley but worked in Marlow & Davis (11/22/14); **Charles (Chuck) Nuttle**, 77, Watersheds, Perry, retired in 1993, 34 yrs. service, retired from Claremore and then worked 20 yrs. for Oklahoma Conservation

Commission in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (12/6/14); **Dale Davis**, 69, Ag Economist, Marlow, left in 1980's for Halliburton (11/30/14); **Marcus Harjo**, 30, Hughes County Conservation District Engineering Aide, Holdenville, died in car accident (1/2/15); **Edward L. (Eddie) Day**, 85, Soil Conservation Technician, Clinton, retired from Weatherford in 1987, 30 yrs. service (1/12/15); **Michael Scott**, 50, Soil Conservationist, Hobart, worked at Taloga for 3 yrs. and Anadarko 5 yrs. at the time of his death; **Virgil Miller**, Ada, father of retiree **Lanny Miller**, (1/18/15); **Tom Perryman**, 94, Area Conservationist at Duncan, retired in 1982, also worked as DC in Cheyenne and Area Conservationist at Woodward (2/6/15); **Mike Thralls**, 64, Billings, retired after 17 yrs. as Oklahoma Conservation Commission Executive Director (2/10/15); **Fern Lambeth**, 101, Okemah, mother of retiree **Nick Lambeth** (2/15/15); **William Hunt**, Boley, former State Conservationist died in Minnesota (2/22/15); **Erik Friend**, DC at Vinita (3/18/15); **Beverly 'Jeanie' Brewster Edwards**, 69, retired District Secretary Mayes County Conservation District at Pryor, 30 yrs. service (4/13/15); **Donald Lady**, 79, retired Construction Inspector Okmulgee Watershed Office, living in Morris, OK (4/15/15). A moment of silence was observed and **Stan Rice** offered a prayer.

Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** mailed 325 notices about the meeting. Four were returned and 1 re-mailed. Current addresses are needed for **Eugene Martin**, Altus; **Mary Lou Chaney**, Jefferson City, MO; and **John D. Cooper**, Prague.

Randy Freeland announced that **John Beard**, retired Area Conservationist from Hugo, has put together a reunion of all former Area 9 employees for June 16th at noon at the Western Sizzlin Steak House in McAlester. Everyone is invited to attend.



Bill Johnson and Gene Spurlock

A tape recording of a song composed several years ago by two SCS employees who were attending a training session was played by **Randy Freeland**. The song was titled "The Battle Hymn of the SCS" and contained the acronyms used by the agency. **Randy** and **Gordon Moebius** then lead the group in SCS/NRCS Trivia Time. A list of 20 questions were passed out and everyone given a short amount of time to read through the questions. Everyone participated in responding aloud to the questions. A proposed answer sheet was then given to those in attendance. Several questions posed different responses as to the correct answer. Most were resolved without fist fights in the crowd!

New officers for the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Organization were installed for the coming year: **Gordon Moebius** will be President. **Dan Runnels** will serve as Vice-President and **Sandra Hough** as Secretary-Treasurer.



Terry Hough, Duane Crider, Everett Cole, and Chuck Grimes

The retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes and pictures from each of the meetings. Special thanks to **Bill Porter** for his work in keeping the website up to date.

Everyone was challenged to personally contact retirees who have not been attending the meetings and invite them to attend our next meeting or even better yet, bring one or more with them to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, **October 23, 2015**, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.